

Mr. BRODEUR. I said the contract was made in 1898, while the duty was fixed in 1897, the Standard Chemical Company was not in existence.

Mr. INGRAM. Hon. gentlemen opposite oppose reasonable protection to the industries of this country, but a concern that supplies the department with this material is given a protection of \$2.40 a gallon. I am sure the hon. member for North Ontario will show that he is willing to support every struggling industry by giving it reasonable protection, even though it may not be located in North Ontario.

Mr. CLANCY. Is there any contract for gin? The hon. gentleman made a very notable speech not many months ago in which I find the Minister of Inland Revenue and the hon. member for North Ontario seem to have an affinity of views in matters of this kind. They are both what are called revenue tariff men, except on these special items, the Minister of Inland Revenue on gin, and the hon. member for North Ontario on methylated spirits. The member for North Ontario declared with no uncertain sound that it would be an outrage, a public abomination to permit the Yankees, as he called them to compete against a Canadian firm that is manufacturing spirits. Yet, he votes against everything that savours of protection. As a Canadian industry this ought to be maintained on fair grounds. But hon. gentlemen opposite are the last men who should say that competition from foreign countries should be shut out in matters of this kind. They have shown particular care of this industry. There is an interesting story about that. The person engaged in the manufacture of this article came down and, by political pressure, succeeded in getting the present government to increase the duties on that particular article. Then followed the conversion of Mr. Peuchen to the Liberal party. I have not much doubt that he had good, substantial reason to conclude that they were the right party. And now he has succeeded in electing the very amiable and able gentleman who represents North Ontario (Mr. Grant).

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CLANCY. I find I am approved for once by hon. gentlemen on the other side. But I do not remember that any of these gentlemen, now so loud in their applause, have ever made use of any such generous expressions toward an opponent, even though it was as well deserved as in the case of the hon. member for North Ontario. That hon. gentleman has not spoken on the tariff before. His voice has been raised to-night in favour of maintaining the privileges of this industry.

Mr. BENNETT. Is that the minister's ultimatum—that he does not intend to ask for

tenders, but will go on giving this company the benefit of \$1.40 a gallon or any other price they see fit to demand?

Mr. BRODEUR. I explained that we asked for prices from the people who should be in a position to supply wood alcohol. The Rathbun people did not even answer our letter. The Soo people could not supply us, and the only firm willing to give prices was the Standard Chemical Company. I may say, in answer to the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), that, in 1897, the duty was raised, not only on wood alcohol, but on grain alcohol as well.

Mr. CLANCY. Not on all.

Mr. BRODEUR. Yes, on all. It was not until a year later, 1898, that the Standard Chemical Company was formed and made a contract with the government. So the duty was not raised for the purpose of serving the interest of the Standard Chemical Company, for that company was not then in existence.

Mr. BENNETT. I must congratulate Mr. Tudhope on his relations with this government. Prior to 1896 Mr. Tudhope was one of the most uncompromising Conservatives in Ontario and one of the most bitter opponents of hon. gentlemen opposite. Of course, with the change of government in 1896 he saw new light, especially when hon. gentlemen opposite increased the duties 10 per cent on the cutters which he manufactured. Now, since the government are giving this company this monopoly, with the duty I have no doubt added, he will in future make some further demands on the hon. gentlemen, and the people in that part of the country will understand that all one has to do with this government is simply to be converted, and then you get what you like from them.

Mr. SPROULE. I notice by a Chicago trade review that wood alcohol of 95 per cent and 97 per cent sold at 65 cents a gallon. I notice that in most of these druggists' lines there is a close similarity between American prices and Canadian prices. I am quite sure I was correct in the statement I made. The information given me was that it could be sold for \$1 a gallon and afford a big profit then.

Mr. CLANCY. Did the hon. gentleman send out a request for tenders to any one else?

Mr. BRODEUR. To the Soo people, but the Soo people were not able to supply us.

Mr. CLANCY. Have any goods been shipped either by the Rathbun people or by the Soo people through this company the hon. gentleman is now dealing with?

Mr. BRODEUR. I could not say.

Some resolutions reported.