

and was held at ten o'clock, and when an adjournment took place there was some little discussion as to the time when the committee would meet again. The clerk recorded that it was to meet at ten o'clock, and I have no doubt that was so stated, but apparently after the clerk had left his chair, and without his hearing it, an arrangement was made, as the hon. gentleman says, that the committee should meet at half-past ten. But apparently that decision was never communicated to the clerk, and he sent out notices for ten o'clock. There is no doubt the notices that came to us yesterday for the meeting this morning were for the meeting at ten o'clock, so I would not like it to be thought that the clerk was to blame.

Mr. SPROULE. We met at ten o'clock and remained there until twelve minutes past ten, and as there was no person to go on with the business, we adjourned.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE TARIFF.

Mr. FOSTER moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee on Ways and Means.

Motion agreed to, and House again resolved itself into Committee on Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose each member has in his possession a corrected copy, or a revised copy of the tariff—at least, they should have; and we will take that up and make the emendations that are necessary. They will be largely verbal. I may say that the Dominion Board of Appraisers have been sitting here for a number of days, and I gave them the tariff to look into, and they have given me their suggestions as regards the wording, and the like of that. A number of their suggestions I am going to ask the committee to adopt as we pass through.

Mr. MULOCK. Are there any clerical errors among these?

Mr. FOSTER. There may be.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Can the Minister tell us how many changes have been made in the tariff since the Budget was delivered, how many changes there have been from specific to ad valorem duties, and how many back again from ad valorem to specific? It would be very interesting if we could find that out.

Mr. FOSTER. I should be very sorry just now to curtail my hon. friend's imagination to so great an extent as to give him all the changes. After we are through with the tariff, it will be easy for him to count them up. I desire to add to the reciprocal proviso these words: "If the above products are imported from a country that imposes no duty on the like product or products."

Mr. MULOCK. Does the Minister understand that the proviso is to be construed in this way: that if the country from which any of the articles mentioned agrees to admit the articles free, thereupon it becomes free in this country?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

Mr. MULOCK. So a foreign country has practically the power to declare what our tariff shall be, and the United States, for example, will be able by making an article free to bring this proviso into effect. In other words, it is to be brought into effect by the action of a foreign country.

Mr. FOSTER. So far as that particular article is concerned, we frame our tariff on certain conditions, which may be availed of by foreign countries.

Mr. MULOCK. We impose a duty on a certain article by this tariff, but at the same time declare that if a foreign country, say the United States, shall place the article on the free list, that at once places it on the free list in this country, and this is done by the action of a foreign country.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

Mr. MULOCK. It is a good deal like handing over the framing of our tariff to a foreign country.

Mr. LANDERKIN. It appears by this clause that our tariff is to be framed at Washington.

Mr. FOSTER. I think we are framing it here.

Mr. LANDERKIN. This state of things was very much regretted some time ago, and very much alarm was shown that our tariff might be framed at Washington. Now, by the terms of this clause it appears that the Government at Washington will make the tariff for this very loyal Government.

Item agreed to.

Marble in slabs or blocks, sawn on more than two sides, 20 per cent.

Mr. McMULLEN. The duty on marble in the rough is reduced to 10 per cent, while the duty on the manufactured article is kept at 30 per cent, so that the manufacturers of marble monuments have a clear 20 per cent protection.

Mr. FOSTER. The whole of it is labour.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. There is a reason. These are largely required for funeral purposes, and it is well that even in the next world there should be some reminiscences of the tariff.

Mr. FOSTER. And considering that according to the view of the Liberal party they are every day getting poorer, we ought to give them their headstones at 5 per cent less.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It may come handy for some of you after a while.

Item agreed to.

Slates, slate mantels, and other manufactures of slate, n.e.s., school or writing slates, and roofing