

they establish, as I believe they have done, with the utmost sincerity and submitting figures, that it was impossible for them to maintain the industry at any lower duty than one cent per pound? As I stated, the town of Lachine is interested in the maintenance of this as well as other industries affected by the tariff, and for this reason especially I have thought it my duty to bring this to the attention of the Government and of the committee.

Mr. WOOD (Hamilton). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) was loaded upon this question before the tariff was brought down. I know something of the wire nail trade, and I am free to say that, on the whole, the wire nail manufacturers are fairly well satisfied. They were not satisfied with the tariff as it came down in the first instance. I myself handle a very large quantity of nails the production of manufactures in the west, and I know, as a matter of fact, that the manufacturers are fairly well satisfied—not as well as if they had one cent per pound, but well enough to be willing to go on and see what they can do, and I am quite satisfied that they can hold their own and keep the American nails out. As to the speech we have just listened to, I have the material for it in my desk, made up by Mr. Whittin, of Hamilton, who got these facts together. But, they were furnished before the change was made in the tariff making it 60 cents per 100 pounds instead of one cent per pound.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) made a mistake, I think, which will leave the impression that three-fifths of a cent per pound would be 60 per cent. The duty under this tariff is 60 cents per 100 pounds, which is not 60 per cent. I may say that in my own town of Gananoque we have a large industry engaged in wire nail manufacturing. They do not draw their wire but purchase it in the coils from the factories in Montreal. Those who control this factory tell me that it cannot possibly go on. I have a suggestion to make as between hon. gentlemen opposite and my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier. The difference between the duty of one cent per pound and the duty of three-fifths cents per pound is two-fifths cent. Now, I would suggest that we split the difference and make it four-fifths cent. My hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Wood) thinks that the manufacturers can hardly exist under the present tariff, but may go on for a while. I do not believe that it is the intention of the Government to leave the manufacturers merely hanging in the air. I think a duty of four-fifths cent, under present prices of raw material, would probably be a fair protection. My hon. friend from Jacques Cartier has quoted some figures, giving prices in the United States. What he has given is what is called the based price for nails. If you ordered a

Mr. MONK.

car load at that price you would receive all large sizes, the sellers would not give small nails at that price. The factory in Gananoque is engaged wholly in the manufacture of the smaller sizes. The factory is closed, and I am satisfied that it will remain closed unless better protection is given.

Mr. WOOD (Hamilton). Those drawing their own wire can compete with the Americans.

Mr. TAYLOR. Perhaps, but it will be very close. They will have to reduce the wages of the men 10 or 15 per cent. But the factory that does not draw its own wire must simply close up. My friend, Mr. Parmenter, whom my hon. friend (Mr. Wood) knows, and whose word is as good as his bond, tells me that under the present duty the factory will have to remain idle.

Mr. MCGREGOR. We want to give the poor fellow who uses the nails a chance.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is something like for coal oil. The average farmer does not use 25 cents worth of nails in a year.

An hon. MEMBER. Oh, oh.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes. I speak of the average. Of course, if a man is building a barn or something of that kind, he will use a few kegs of nails. But, under ordinary circumstances, five or ten pounds will do him for a year. The difference between three-fifths cent and four-fifths cent will not amount to half as much as the increase you make on tobacco.

Mr. PENNY. I was in conversation with one of the largest nail manufacturers in Montreal, and he did not say anything about the closing of his factory. He expressed himself as satisfied with the tariff as it is to-day.

Mr. MONK. I would not have taken up a moment of the committee's time, if my information were such as that intimated by the hon. member for Hamilton. There is a large factory in Lachine, which draws its own wire, and my information is from those in charge of that factory. I do not pretend to know the facts myself. I am a lawyer, and, though we do a great deal of nailing, we do not manufacture nails. My information is quite different from that of the hon. gentleman. The representative of the factory to which I referred assumed that they are unable to continue under this duty. The hon. gentleman may say that they are able to run, but the representations made to me are to the contrary.

The CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS. The drop from \$1 to 60 cents per 100 pounds is a severe cut—no doubt about that. But, for those who do not draw their own wire the duty on the wire is reduced, while the rod from which the wire is drawn comes