

own county, and informed the Department that he was a merchant, and asked who recommended him.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. IRVINE. And the hon. gentleman expressed surprise—

The CHAIRMAN. The hon. gentleman must confine himself to the subject before the committee.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Rags.

Mr. IRVINE—and stated: I can assure the hon. gentlemen that the matter will have my serious consideration; but the hon. gentleman knows very well, because I told him, and I stand by my declaration, that he appointed one of the most prominent merchants in the county a seizing officer, at \$200 a year; and to-day that merchant is in the employment of the Government, and he is selling dutiable goods.

Mr. BOWELL. Is he smuggling?

Mr. IRVINE. You would not have me give you the proofs. It is you who ought to know; and I ask you if he is smuggling?

Mr. BOWELL. I say that if I [knew he was smuggling I would dismiss him.

Mr. IRVINE. I say that he is selling dutiable goods; and when you appointed him you acknowledged that you did not know he was a merchant.

The CHAIRMAN. The hon. gentleman cannot go on in this manner. He must confine himself to the question now before the committee. He is discussing a different question altogether; the question is woollen rags.

Mr. IRVINE. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think I deserve as much courtesy as any other member.

The CHAIRMAN. The hon. gentleman must confine himself to the question of woollen rags.

Mr. IRVINE. To rags?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. MILLS. In discussing the National Policy, I think it is appropriate that we should confine ourselves to rags.

Mr. McCALLUM. The hon. gentleman says we should confine ourselves to rags, and I shall try to confine myself to that question. I notice that hon. gentlemen opposite are coming over to our policy; they are urging that we should put a duty on rags. Why, Sir, during the time hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, from 1874 to 1878, there were no rags to be manufactured; the people had to wear them. I would say to the Minister of Customs that as this question is closely connected with wool, in my opinion—and I am a farmer—the farmers of this country do not get the price for wool that they think they should have for it. I believe that if the Government were to put a duty on fine wool coming into the country, as well as coarse wool, it would be an advantage. At the time of the organisation of this policy it was necessary that fine wool should come into the country free, as it was the raw material for the manufacturers. Well, Sir, I contend that if there is a duty put on fine wool coming into this country there will be more coarse wool used. Then, of course, the manufacturers would say, these Scotch tweeds and fine tweeds come into the country, and that would not be fair to the manufacturers. I would say to the Minister of Customs and the Finance Minister, that if they put a duty on fine wool, and also increase the duty on fine tweeds coming into this country in competition with our manufacturers, then I think the farmers would get a better price for their wools, as the coarse wools would be mixed with the fine and make cloth, suitable for use by the majority of the people of this

country; and if the people want to wear finer qualities of cloth let those do so who can afford to pay for them. An hon. member smiled when it was mentioned in the House that no country in the world had free trade except England, and England itself has not got free trade if you have. Where are you going to get the revenue—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Rags.

Mr. McCALLUM. We want a revenue to carry on improvements—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Rags, rags.

Mr. McCALLUM. I am talking close to rags. If those articles come into the country I understand they are to pay 20 per cent. duty, and if the hon. gentleman puts a duty on fine wool and increases the duty on fine tweeds, there will be more coarse wool used, and the farmers will get a better price for wool than they do to-day. By doing this they will assist the manufacturers and help the wool growers as well.

Mr. FARROW. I want to say two or three words on behalf of the farmers.

Mr. MILLS. On behalf of the hens.

Mr. FARROW. I want to say a few words, but I see that even a philosopher does not know how to behave himself.

An hon. MEMBER. He is not so wise as he looks.

Mr. FARROW. No; and he is not so wise as he thinks himself to be. If he had a little more knowledge it would help him a great deal. I wish, Mr. Chairman, to say, as a farmer, that the farmers would like very much to have the price of wool increased. I have paid a great deal of attention to the raising of wool. I have tried the coarse wool sheep and I have tried the finer kinds—not the finest—and I think we are probably raising sufficient of the fine wool now, in the shape of the Downs and the South Downs especially, that it would be wise for the Government to put a duty on fine wools. But I have come to this conclusion, along with the farmers in my neighborhood, that there is just one way by which the price of wool can be increased to the farmers; and I wish the Finance Minister would pay particular attention to this. My hon. friend from Monck (Mr. McCallum) has, no doubt, touched the sore spot. If you examine the returns, you will find that a vast amount of shoddy cloth and shoddy blankets come into this country from the old country. Now, what the Minister ought to do is to double the duty on these goods—to make it a prohibitive duty. We do not want shoddy cloth or shoddy blankets in this country; and by keeping them out, our own wool, especially as our farmers are growing it now, will become quite serviceable for these very purposes. That, I believe, would run up the price to the farmers.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I desire to say a few words on this subject. I did not intend to say anything, only from some matters which have dropped in the discussion I thought probably it was right I should. The hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) has tried to give us an idea that this country is in a very flourishing condition, that the farmers and everybody else are prosperous, and that everything is going on in a very happy way. Now, I am reminded of a little circumstance that occurred at my place before I came down here.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order—rags, rags.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I am coming to rags, and if this policy lasts much longer you will all come to rags. The hon. member for North Bruce tells us that he is a farmer, but when I look at him he does not look like a farmer; he really has not got the airs of a farmer; he appears to be