

After the recess,

Mr. Pope said his section of country produced coarse grain largely, but they did not fear competition in this respect with the Americans. They had exported their coarse grains to a considerable extent to the United States. He thought it wise to admit corn into the country at the cheapest possible rates. The lumbering interest consumed it largely.

Mr. White—Where?

Mr. Pope—They consumed it for their horses, where they were far from agricultural settlements, in preference to oats. Free admission of corn into this country would do damage to no interest. He would not discuss this question from a regard merely to the interests of his own locality. He considered that if they were to protect flour in the interest of the West, they should protect coal in the interest of the East. But he doubted very much if we could ever get rich by protection. We should not look at these matters from a parish point of view. We should consider what was for the interest of the whole Dominion, and he believed that the larger portion of the people of Ontario and Quebec were as much interested in having grain admitted free as were the people of the Lower Provinces.

Mr. Magill opposed the tax of \$2 on hogs. He thought at least a drawback should be allowed on pork packed for exportation, so that an important industrial pursuit which gave employment to a good many people might not be injuriously interfered with.

Hon. Mr. Tilley said the Governor-in-Council had power to arrange as to this by regulations.

Mr. Ross (Dundas) thought the new tariff would cause a great deal more dissatisfaction than the old one. A free trade policy for this country was an absurdity. The policy in this respect of our neighbours in the United States was worthy of imitation. They were an agricultural people, but they did not, on that account, open their ports for the products of all other countries. One great argument in favour of Confederation was that we would have a compensation for the loss of Reciprocity in the market opened for our products in the Lower Provinces. But this tariff destroyed that market, and moreover flooded us with the coarse grains of the Western States. If we were to make the people believe that some gain was to be derived from Confederation, we would adopt a policy which

would enable one section of the Dominion to supply the other, so that we might all feel bound up in a common interest.

The amendment was then put and lost.

The items under the head of specific duties were agreed to, down to "Starch, 2 cents per pound."

Hon. Mr. Holton referred to the action with reference to starch in 1866. The then Minister of Finance at first proposed to make starch free, but in consequence of the remonstrances of the Edwardsburg Starch Factory, raised the duty to 2½ cents per pound. This was justified on the ground that a duty was put on corn. The duty on corn was now taken off, and the duty on starch was only reduced to 2 cents. Why not take it off altogether?

Hon. Mr. Tilley said that the duty on corn having been taken off, there was no reason why the manufacturers should have additional protection. Therefore, the half cent was taken off.

Mr. Shanly contended that the starch manufacturing interests had to be protected. If some encouragement was not given, the Edwardsburg factory would be closed. He asked, was it for the interest of this country that we should make no effort to maintain these industries, but should hand them all over to our neighbours?

Mr. D. A. McDonald said this duty gave this one factory a protection of about 25 per cent. He thought one cent a pound would be sufficient.

Hon. Mr. Johnson protested against the course pursued by the Government in making their followers vote one way the first part of the session, and another way the next. When they were to change their policy they ought to consult their supporters. He believed, however, they had on the whole improved the tariff by this measure. The Government in effect said to their supporters, we will devise our measure, and all you have to do is follow us. That policy might do for a session or two, but it would not last long.

Mr. Mackenzie said he understood the Minister of Customs to admit that the 2½ cents had been put on starch as a compensation for the 10 cents on corn. The duty on corn having been removed, the 2½ cents should be taken off also. If the manufacturer got the benefit of the 10 cents, the public should get the benefit of the 2½ cents.