

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. My hon. friend will find I am correct. It is not to prevent cheap goods being introduced, but goods of higher class at cheap rates.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. Minister has misunderstood me on several occasions. When I speak of cheap goods, I do not mean inferior goods, but goods of very good value for the money. We are subject to the misfortune frequently of having very good paper brought in cheaply, which is a great misfortune and it is quite right to prevent it.

On item 11, felt.

Mr. McLELAN. This is to make the duty uniform. Felt is charged $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents a lb. and 20 per cent., and 15 cents and 10 per cent., and is also let in free, according to the purpose for which it is imported. This resolution is to charge it a uniform duty of $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr. BLAKE. Why does the hon. gentleman not make it uniformly down instead of putting it at $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent?

Mr. McLELAN. This is a medium rate.

Mr. BLAKE. What is the reason the delightful combination of specific and *ad valorem* has been abandoned in this case, that combination which has such charms for the hon. gentleman.

Mr. BOWELL. It is applied in a great many cases, but it is not necessary to enforce it in every one. The reason for making this change is the fact that there is one class of goods which could only be rated at 20 per cent. when imported for certain classes of manufactures, and when imported for another class it is charged 15 per cent., when imported for ordinary trade purposes it is charged at $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents and 10 per cent. Importations were made for specific purposes, say for boot makers or glove makers, and then the felt was placed in the market and sold for other purposes. The merchants represented that this was placing them in an uncomfortable position, and it would be better for the trade generally to make a uniform rate. By that means, the manufacturer will pay $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and buy the goods from the merchant instead of having to import them. It will do away with the fraud of entering for one purpose and selling for another.

Mr. BLAKE. In more than one case I have expressed my approval of changes in the tariff, and in this case, as the duty stood, it was a frightful temptation to fraud; but the question I put is, why is the principle of combination of specific and *ad valorem* duties, which the Government appear to be adopting more widely every year, and which already existed in this case, departed from?

Mr. McLELAN. Felt often comes in a bale with other goods, and we have to open the bale and ascertain the weight, so as to charge a specific duty; and it is simply to do away with that difficulty we make the duty *ad valorem*.

On item 12, stereotypes and electrotypes.

Mr. McLELAN. I want to add after the word "metal" the words "and not elsewhere specified."

Mr. BOWELL. Stereotypes and electrotypes for standard books are now 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, and stereotypes and electrotypes for commercial blanks and advertisements, 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. This item is put in to prevent a difficulty which has arisen in regard to what they call the patent newspaper column, which is being imported from the United States. These columns are stereotyped out upon plate, and sent back again. Great difficulty has been found in arriving at a correct value, and it is thought better to make a specific duty of 5 cents per pound for this particular kind of plate which is used in newspapers for serial stories and that class of literature. At present, it might be ruled at 20 per cent. Some of our collectors have thought

it would come within these two items, and, after full consideration as to its value, and arriving at as equitable a duty as possible, we propose this, which is about equal to 20 per cent.

Mr. BLAKE. So it is to cost 20 per cent., while the other class specified will cost 10 per cent.

Mr. BOWELL. One class for standard books is 10 per cent., and that for advertisements is 20 per cent. This is a new item.

Mr. BLAKE. To cover the serial stories?

Mr. BOWELL. Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. So it puts them at a disadvantage as compared with standard books by a double duty.

Mr. BOWELL. Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. That is a stroke at the hon. gentleman's old compatriots, the newspaper publishers.

Mr. BOWELL. But it is in the interest of the printer who sets the type, the labor of the compositor in this country.

Mr. BLAKE. What about the standard books?

Mr. BOWELL. They are not printed here to any extent.

On item 13, scythes.

Mr. McLELAN. The present duty is 35 per cent., but scythes are imported and entered at fictitious values, as is found by the Custom house officers, and the duty will not put an increase on the proper value of good articles.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. How does the hon. gentleman propose to ascertain, to use his own words, the proper value of a good article? Surely that is liable to alter all the time, as improvements in manufacture are made.

Mr. McLELAN. I think it is found now that what is called a good article of scythe that a man should use—and it is only the best that a man should use—is worth \$9 or \$10.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Yes, to-day, but what may it be a year hence?

Mr. McLELAN. They were more than that formerly.

Mr. BOWELL. There is a manufacturer from Oshawa behind the hon. gentleman who says we have lowered the duty on scythes, so that it is not so great a protection to the manufacturer as the old duty. The great difficulty was this: In the United States they receive a drawback of \$1.50 to \$2 a dozen on scythes which they send to this country, and the great difficulty in ascertaining the exact values has arisen from that fact. A specific duty will prevent that.

On item 14, wire covered with cotton, &c.

Mr. McLELAN. This is to make uniform all classes. At present wire covered with silk would be 30 per cent., and covered with cotton, 20 per cent., and it is proposed to put it all at 25 per cent.

On item 15, stove bolts and nuts, &c.

Mr. McLELAN. Wood screws are now 35 per cent. Stove bolts are very similar in their manufacture, and it is proposed to put them at the same rate of duty.

Mr. BLAKE. What are stove bolts and nuts at present?

Mr. McLELAN. We are making nuts and bolts part specific and part *ad valorem*, taking out only stove bolts and small bolts.

Mr. BLAKE. What is the equivalent of the present duty?

Mr. McLELAN. The present duty is 25 per cent.

Mr. BLAKE. So it is an increase of 10 per cent?