

Now we have a speech from the Controller of Customs, and of him the same must be said, that he has not helped us in any way to understand the tariff. I suppose he has had a good deal to do with the preparation of the tariff; at all events, he ought to have had as much to do with it as any of the other skilful hands which manipulated it. But are we one whit enlightened by the speech to which we have just listened? Has there been a ray of light thrown upon this difficult tariff?—because it is an unprecedented tariff. We might worship it, without idolatry, without breaking any of the commandments, for it is like nothing in Heaven above, or on the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth. We have had speeches from three authorities on that tariff, and not one word of light or exposition has come to us. When my hon. friend from Bruce (Mr. McNeill) rose up and asked the Controller of Customs to tell him what was the meaning of "on the whole," was there ever a plainer or a more rational question? Here is an hon. gentleman a member of a Government who have placed a resolution before this House and before the country in which occurs a certain phrase "on the whole"; and he is asked to tell what the meaning of that is, and he dares not attempt to tell. But what does he do? He gives us a platform speech of about an hour in length, and he does this with such energy that I thought a drumhead must have been boiled in his broth. But there was no instruction, there was no enlightenment whatever. Now that question of the hon. member for Bruce was a very important one; and the hon. Controller of Customs let fall a few words at the close of his speech which seemed to glance in the same direction as the clear indication of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, that when this tariff becomes law, other nations, in fact some twenty-three nations, I suppose, will be able to come in on the same footing as England without making the least change in their tariffs. Has the hon. gentleman looked at the tariff of Germany? Has he looked at the tariff of Belgium? Is he aware that those who have looked at those tariffs know, or think they know, that whatever course may be taken by the Government—suppose the impossible course should be taken, which I think myself is out of the question, of confining the operations of this preferential clause to England unless the other countries modify their fiscal policies—suppose that was done, German goods could come to us not merely through England but direct, and this country could be deluged with German goods. I think if the hon. gentleman will look at those tariffs he will find that once this goes into operation, this country may be deluged with German goods and with Belgium goods. Does he wish it? Because if he wishes it, then the people of Canada ought

Mr. DAVIN.

to know it. I am not now discussing whether it is desirable or not, but the people of Canada should know what the facts are.

I want to confine myself for a few moments to what fell from my hon. friend the Controller of Customs. He described this tariff with a great deal of enthusiasm. I see that the Toronto "World" says that it is a picturesque tariff. I also see that the "Globe," in one of its illustrations of my hon. friend the Prime Minister, places him before us in the position of a theatrical manager. Well, Sir, this tariff I must confess to you, seems to me to be a piece of tariff skirt dancing—that is the best description I can give of it. My hon. friend who has just spoken, got enthusiastic about the heart of England having been touched; and we have had a great deal of what is highfalutin about the sentimental aspect of this tariff. But what has touched the heart of England is clearly not this tariff, is clearly not these resolutions. These resolutions can hardly have been before the eye of England, or before the good sense of England, or both would have seen that they contain no special favour for her. My hon. friend talks about the "Times." He does not appear to know that in the history of that great journal, the "Times" has taken the wrong view on hundreds of questions. He speaks as though we did not know that the "Daily News" is the mouthpiece of the commercial world, and of the Radical party in England; as though we did not know that it was the organ of the Cobdenites, and these journals clearly thought that this tariff does something for them which these hon. gentlemen do not attempt to say it does, or that they intend it shall do. When the "Times" or the "Daily News" or other journals have had time to consider just what is done for England in this tariff, probably the dythrambics we have heard from across the Atlantic, will be changed to another tune. I know something of the way journalism is conducted in London, and let me ask the House, how do they think an article like that is written in the "Times," or in the "Daily News"? I will tell them. The editorial writer who is in charge, specially of the colonies, comes down about nine o'clock in the evening to the office; he calls upon the editor in the editorial sanctum, and the editor hands him a telegram that he has received from Canada, a brief sketch of what has taken place, in which it is stated that Canada has proposed something special for England. They discuss it for a few minutes; the editorial writer goes into a neighbouring room and writes his leader. What is that leader which we shall see in the "Times," or in the "Daily News," the next morning? It is a brief essay of a clever man who has gone to Printing House Square, or Bouverie Street, from his club. But in two weeks from now when they shall have seen the tariff, and