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Now, I think I have established the fact that the *Spectator* is not speaking the truth in making this statement; and in doing so I have answered what the *Spectator* says with regard to this matter. But what shall I say of the *Ottawa Citizen*, the journal which charges me with being a sneak and a spy, who acts in the hope of injuring his brother journalists? When we think of the history of the *Ottawa Citizen* in the past, it is fruitful of much discussion. The *Ottawa Citizen* has had a checkered career during some years past. At one time, I believe, it was the property of a Minister of the Crown held under mortgage; at another time it was the property of the sheriff; at another time it was the property of the tax collector of the city of Ottawa; and I believe it only exists, as has been proved by the public records, by the crumbs and the droppings which fall from the Government table, and which it is always ready to take up. And when we think of the history of the gentleman who is the conductor of that journal we have something rather astonishing to remember. We can remember that this purist journalist is the man who was known all over the Dominion of Canada as the celebrated contract broker, as the man who had something to do with securing a large sum of money under the celebrated Whitehead contract. I think he is the last man, and his paper is the last paper, that should charge any hon. member of this House with being a sneak and a spy. I wish to say that in discharging the duty I have discharged, I have been working in the interests of the people; I have been discharging a duty which I owe to my constituents and the Dominion at large in exposing the frauds which have been perpetrated by the Conservative press of this country with the sanction of this Government. So long as I have the honor to represent a constituency in this House, I will discharge my duty in this respect. I am not actuated by any desire to sneak or spy on my brother journalists, but solely by the desire to elevate the tone of the press of this country, to elevate the morality of the people, and I think the country will justify me in exposing these frauds and showing up this corrupt Government in the manner I have.

Motion agreed to, and the House again resolved itself into Committee on Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. BOWELL. * Before proposing the resolution which I desire to lay before the committee, I desire to refer to one or two items which were allowed to stand when the committee rose upon the last occasion. The first question I wish to refer to is that of rags, which was discussed in the committee for about three hours, and upon my own suggestion was allowed to stand for further consideration. The leader of the Opposition asked at the time what position this article would remain in, if action were not taken by the committee. I informed the House it would remain on the free list under the Order in Council which had been passed. At that time, it was the intention to propose a rate at which this article should be taxed, but after full investigation into the matter, as to the importations, the quality of article imported, the supply found in the country, and the effect on the manufacturing industries of the country, it has been decided to allow this particular article to remain on the free list, and for this reason: The commoner class of rags, to which reference was more particularly made when the question was under discussion, is obtained in the country. That particular kind is not imported, or imported in very small quantities. The more valuable rags that are imported and used in the different manufactures are what are termed tailors' clippings, and I

* For resolutions see p. 3232.

Mr. SOMERVILLE (Brant).

find these run from 5 cents to 15 cents a pound. I ascertained if a duty were put on this raw material which enters into the manufacture of a particular kind of cloth made and sold in the country, the result would be to prevent its manufacture in Canada. I need scarcely tell those who have given the slightest attention to the question, that of the class of cloth which is termed shoddy, that which is made in Canada is much better and of more durable quality than that which is imported. I know it was argued that this kind of cloth should not be encouraged; but we must bear this in mind, that if it be not made in Canada it will be imported, and as this kind of cheap article will be consumed in the country; it is, particularly under our policy, better that it should be manufactured here, and the benefits arising from its manufacture accrue to us rather than to outsiders. We have, therefore, decided to allow rags to remain on the free list. The question of inland transportation, the committee will remember was very fully discussed when we were in committee. The difficulties which have arisen, the frauds which have also been committed, have occasioned a good deal of trouble, and the Government thought of suggesting a repeal of that clause of the law, but ascertaining that this would interfere, to a certain extent, with a very large trade, particularly the dry goods and some other branches with which we have never had any difficulty, it has been deemed advisable to recommend to the committee to allow the clause as it now stands on the Statute Book to remain, and to add a provision giving power to the Minister of Customs, for the time being, to determine what shall be the rate to be deducted from the face of the invoice for inland transportation. It may be deemed an arbitrary power, but it is in consonance with all the provisions of the Customs Act, and the House will readily understand that when a dispute arises between an importer and the Customs Department as to the rate of freight, say from Manchester to Liverpool, it will be very easy for the Department to ascertain from the parties in England what the rates upon different kinds of freight are, and to establish, for the time being, such rates as the amount to be taken from the face of the invoice. I will give the committee one illustration of the working of the law as it exists: Take the manufacturing town near Glasgow, Storebridge, 15 or 20 miles out of Glasgow, and a large iron manufacturing centre; we have had invoices presented for Customs with a deduction of 20s. sterling per ton for freight from that town to Greenock; we have had other invoices, with not a month or two difference in time, showing only 5s. deduction per ton for freight, making a difference of 15s. per ton. These invoices, I may inform the House without giving names, were from two large wholesale establishments in the one city in the Province of Ontario. If the Department has the power to say, for instance, 5s. shall be the rate and issues a circular to that effect, all the different ports in the Dominion will, when they receive an invoice from that particular town, allow the importer to deduct the 5s. for freight, and thereby avoid contention with the importer, and prevent fraud when intended. The way in which the invoices have been made out has been this: The amount paid to the manufacturer or merchant in the old country has been precisely the same by both merchants in Canada; only the invoice in the one case would be made out at, say, £6, adding 5s. for freight; while the other would be made out at £5 5s. and 20s. for freight; so that, when the invoices were presented for duty, the one merchant would have the advantage of 17½ or 15 per cent., or whatever the rate of duty might be, on 15s. per ton of every ton of his entry. I am giving the committee the practical working of the law as it has existed, and simply asking now that the Department shall have the power to say, after full enquiry, what amount of freight the merchant shall be allowed to deduct from his invoice. There are other resolutions which I propose to lay before the