

not dissatisfied, but are actually in favor of the law -- it stands upon the Statute-book. One evidence of that is the fact that as soon as one of the Customs detectives had resigned his position on the staff, they petitioned to have another placed in his position in order that the laws might still be enforced. With these facts before the Government and before the House, I am of opinion, though I may be mistaken, that the honest merchants of this country, the manufacturers of the country who are interested in, seeing the laws enforced, and more particularly the importers who contribute a large proportion of the revenue, would be injured by the abolition of the system which prevails at the present moment. Believing that to be the case, I have not deemed it advisable in the past to advise my colleagues to change the rules to any appreciable extent. I did go this far, at the instance of the Board of Trade of Montreal, in regard to whom my hon. friend from Chateauguay (Mr. Holton) said that their representations were treated with contempt and were never listened to: at their instance, I did prevent the distribution, among appraisers, of penalties which were imposed for undervaluations which were not necessarily fraudulent; as I believed it to be their duty under the law to examine goods, and, if they were undervalued, to carry out the rules and regulations enforced by my predecessor, without any other reward than their salaries. I put a stop to that, which they thought was a very important point, though I question the propriety of it myself, after the experience of a year or two. I give that as an illustration that the representations of Boards of Trade and merchants who are interested, have not been treated by the head of the Department or the Government, with the contempt which the hon. gentleman asserts. I shall deem it my duty in future, as long as I occupy this position, or any other position in the Government, whenever representations are made which I consider to be in the interest of the public to carry out, to recommend my colleagues to adopt a policy which will give effect to such opinions. But there are suggestions made very often which, when they are considered, and when you have the opportunity of a quiet conversation with those who suggest them, are seen by those gentlemen themselves to be improper or undesirable to carry out.

**SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS AGAINST PROPOSED CHANGES IN
THE LAW.**

I have shown that a return to the moiety system proper in the United States, is only a question of time, and that to