

Mr. BOWELL. I cannot tell the hon. gentleman that.

Hoop iron, not exceeding three eights ($\frac{3}{8}$) of an inch in width, and being No. 25 gauge or thinner, used for the manufacture of tubular rivets.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I see there are quite a number of these concessions in the matter of iron. I should imagine it would make it somewhat difficult to distinguish, in the several classes I see below, between what was really and *bonâ fide* imported for these special purposes, and those imported for other purposes.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. gentleman will see that we take the precaution, as far as possible in all these articles which are put on the free list, for the encouragement of any particular industry, of confining it to the importation of the manufacturers themselves, although it is not so worded.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would just say, with respect to a good many of these things—I make the remark as to the whole of these various articles, in the way of iron and steel—that it appears to me that there are a considerable number of other manufacturers who use articles closely similar to those. Take, for example, the case of manufacturers of agricultural implements in general—not confined to shovels and spades, and those kinds of things—it seems to me they have at least an equal claim with the others to whom the hon. gentleman is making these reductions.

Mr. GLEN. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman why the men who make scythes, rakes, hoes and forks should not have free steel as well as the man who makes spades and shovels. Why should not the steel used by agricultural implement makers be allowed to come in free as well as that used by other manufactures? I do not think we should make fish of one and flesh of the other. I do not object to making the raw material free, but I think all should be served alike.

Mr. PLATT. The line of discrimination seems to be drawn between those who ask and those who do not.

Mr. BLAKE. I think that is it. Those who come to this paternal Government and ask their good masters and pastors to do it get it done.

Mr. BOWELL. No; that does not follow. There are many things asked for that are not given. We are not in the habit of making concessions of this kind if the article be made in the country, and in no case are they made when the article can be procured in the country. The general principle referred to by the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Glen) opens up a wide door, and it is perhaps as well that we should not discuss it at this hour of the night, though I have no objection to the hon. gentleman discussing it at any time or at any length. The rule we follow is this: When we find that an industry can be aided, by allowing articles to be imported free which are not made in the country, and cannot by any possibility come into competition with articles made in Canada, we do so, thus carrying out the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite of admitting raw material free of duty.

Mr. GLEN. There is no sheet steel made in Canada at all. It is used for making reaper knives; and why should it come in duty free, when used for spade and shovels, and taxed when used for reaper knives?

Mr. BOWELL. The question is a very proper one, and I may inform the hon. gentleman that that very point, relating to reaper knives, is under the consideration of the Government. Although I cannot promise that a change will be made, I am inclined to agree with him that there is no reason why the same kind of steel that is used for shovels and spades should not also be admitted free when used for the manufacture of reaper knives.

Mr. GLEN. There is no steel fit for tools made in this country at all.

Mr. BLAKE. I think these observations indicate the propriety of the Government considering, as far as practicable, the adoption of some general principle regulating the placing of articles on the free list. The hon. gentleman lays down one rule, which, of course, is a sound one, having regard to the fiscal policy he is endeavoring to carry out, namely, that the article is admitted free when it cannot be manufactured in the country, and when it is the raw material of something that is. Now, I maintain that if you find an article is not manufactured in the country and is the raw material of various manufactures, you ought to admit it for all the various manufactures in the country without limitation, or prescribe the classes of manufactures in which it is to be used.

Mr. BOWELL. I think there is a great deal of force in what the hon. gentleman says, and although this question has been discussed very often by the Minister of Finance and myself, and by the other members of the Government, I shall not forget, when the question next comes up, to bring the point raised by the hon. gentleman before my colleagues for consideration.

Buckram, for the manufacture of hat and bonnet shapes.

Mr. BLAKE. Is buckram used for any other manufacture?

Mr. BOWELL. It is not made in this country. I fancy it is used for a number of things. It comes, I think, in a half finished state, and is then completed by the hat and bonnet makers.

Mr. BLAKE. But there are other articles applied to another part of the person for which buckram is used, and it seems to me that the hon. gentleman ought to be more generous, that he ought to take a more comprehensive view of this question, that he ought to look at it all around, behind and before, above and below, everywhere; and if he did so, he would permit buckram, when used for the manufacture of any article, to be admitted free.

Mr. BOWELL. Well, we will consider it.

Re-covered rubber and rubber substitute.

Mr. BLAKE. Would the hon. gentleman explain what re-covered rubber is?

Mr. BOWELL. It is the rubber from the old shoes that are thrown away. They are gathered up and imported to a large extent; and as rubber, in its raw state, is admitted free, at the representation of the rubber manufacturers who gather up these shoes from all over the country, as well as import them, it was thought that it should be placed on the free list also. They separate the cotton, or whatever may be attached to the rubber, from it, and it is re-manufactured again into shoes. By some it is called the re-covered rubber, and by others rubber substitute.

Mr. BLAKE. They are, in fact, rubber rags.

Mr. BOWELL. I think you may fairly call them rubber rags.

Mr. BLAKE. Has the hon. gentleman found that the use of these rags has improved the manufactured article, and that under his policy we are getting a better article? Because that is not my experience. I really fear that we are wearing rubbers made out of the discarded rubbers, because the truth is, that they wear out in a very few days. One may be very unpatriotic, but I am glad to have the opportunity sometimes to buy rubbers made in other countries. There is no doubt we have a very inferior class of rubbers.

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex). And much more expensive than they used to be some years ago.