

the duty on soft coal from 60 cents to 40 cents if the Americans were willing to leave the duty under their tariff at 40 cents. But, he says, if they do not, I will not only keep up the duty on soft coal but I will put a duty on hard coal as well. But, when he comes to the question of corn, he says to the Americans: You may enter it here free for everything except for making whisky; it will not make good whisky and we do not want it for that. This removal of the corn duty, in my opinion, will seriously affect the price of the coarse grains grown in Ontario. How can we afford to sell these grains even at present prices, to say nothing of a reduction. I know that oats in my riding are hard to sell at 17 cents a bushel. Before I came to attend this session, barley was quoted at 21 cents and they would not pay more. We are one of the best barley-growing sections in Ontario. The Bay of Quinté barley is noted as being the best in the American market. It used to be \$1 a bushel and even more. But it dropped to 75 cents and so on down to the present price. It had to be used for feed, for no man can afford to sell it at present prices. Why should the Government allow corn to come in free to compete with the farmers who are getting such low prices for their coarse grains? I feel that it is unfair and unjust and I most earnestly protest against that part of the tariff, because I feel that it is opposed to the best interests of the Dominion. I think that will be almost the unanimous opinion of my people. As a matter of fact, the farmers in my riding are the strongest protectionists we have. I know that personally, because I have visited them from house to house a good many times. It is only once in a great while you can find among them a hard-shell Grit who is sufficiently "hard-shell" to take the position the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who used to say: If other people have a mind to be fools and tax themselves, why should we follow them in that? The Government did not take that view and I am glad of it. They do not take the position that they are free traders like the English free traders. The Englishman does not tax the things he can make but the things he cannot make. The result is that Great Britain raises about one-quarter of her revenue from customs duties, while we raise fully two-thirds of our own in that way. But I am very glad to know that our Government does not take that position. I think it is much better that a dozen men, or even a whole political party, for that matter, should lose their reputation and be regarded as not overtruthful and as men who would not keep their promises, than that the whole country should suffer. Hon. gentlemen opposite used to say that protection must be abolished. I have shown that by the quotations I have given, and these could be multiplied by any number you like. They declared protection to be a villainous system

and said that if they got into power they would eliminate every vestige of protection from the tariff. I am glad they did not do it; I am glad for my country's sake, because it is very much more to us that our country should be prosperous, that the best interests of the country should be considered, than that any particular party should be in power. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry for having trespassed so long on your patience, and I have to thank you and the House for your courteous attention. I again express the hope, in conclusion, that the Government will be able to reconsider this free corn question, and re-impose the duty of 7½ cents a bushel.

Mr. CASEY moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.05 a.m. (Friday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 30th April, 1897.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 76) to incorporate the British Pacific Railway Company.—(Mr. Oliver.)

Bill (No. 77) to incorporate the Hudson Bay and Yukon Railway and Navigation Company.—(Mr. Oliver.)

Bill (No. 78) to amend the Act incorporating the Ontario Accident Insurance Company.—(Mr. Osler.)

Bill (No. 79) to incorporate the Dominion Portland Cement Company.—(Mr. Britton.)

Bill (No. 80) respecting the Quebec Bridge Company.—(Mr. Lavergne.)

Bill (No. 81) respecting the Great Northern Railway Company.—(Mr. Lavergne.)

Bill (No. 82) to incorporate the Mining Development and Advisory Corporation of British America, Limited.—(Mr. Maxwell.)

Bill (No. 83) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of the Mycenian Marble Company, of Canada, Limited.—(Mr. Rosamond.)

Bill (No. 84) to incorporate the Continental Heat and Light Company.—(Mr. Rosamond.)