

most vicious form of protection. On the contrary, I think it is about the most sensible and defensible form of protection, because one has the advantage of knowing exactly what he is paying, and perhaps he may be able to discover what he is getting in return for the bounty. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made a studied effort to create difficulty as between the east and the west, by representing that this tariff was made at the sacrifice of the maritime provinces. That was a proposition over which the hon. gentleman laboured. Now, if he would only induce his friends in the west to take the same view, I do not know that I would have very much to complain of, but the friends of the hon. gentleman in the west are representing that this tariff has been made in the interests of the maritime provinces, and representations are being made that the maritime members of this House have had too much influence in the moulding of the tariff. The statement is as unfair and untrue in the west as it is in the east. The tariff has been made for the purpose which the hon. gentleman himself stated at the close of his speech; a purpose which he implied was a great wrong. "Why," he said, "this Government have really prepared this tariff in the interest of pleasing the largest number of the people of Canada." These were his words. Well, Sir, I confess that that is exactly the aim of this tariff. It was our aim to please, as far as we might be able to do, the largest number of the people of this Dominion.

The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made various allusions to struggles in the Cabinet. Perhaps that is a subject upon which he is better qualified to speak than I am. Perhaps he has had a larger experience in the matter of struggles in the Cabinet than I have. I am bound to tell my hon. friend that, in the light of his own experience, I can forgive him for not being able to understand that it may be possible to carry on a Government without struggles in the Cabinet.

With regard to the particular duties affecting the iron industries of Pictou county, my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has complained of some of the duties, which in so far as they have any relation to that particular industry, are, in my opinion, really in its favour. He complained that we made the duty lower on scrap iron. If that has any effect whatever upon the iron industry in Pictou county, it is not adverse to that industry, but on the contrary, it will be to their advantage that scrap iron should be as cheap as possible. My hon. friend went on to allude to the danger that this iron tariff would encourage American iron to come into this country. Well, Sir, we regard it as of great importance to the manufacturing industries of Canada, to the general industries of Canada, that these raw materials shall be supplied to the manufacturers as cheaply as possible. That is the

line upon which the tariff has been prepared. It may be that many of these iron goods will come in from the United States, although I think the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) magnifies that danger. He quoted at length, from what he regarded as authorities, to show that England is going to be destroyed in this competition with the iron industries of the United States. My hon. friend has a weakness for discovering that England is going to be easily ruined. The somewhat famous phrase which he once used in this House, must have come to the minds of many of us when to-day he was speaking about the destruction of England's iron industry in competition with the United States. It was but a repetition of that phrase wherein he said that England had been driven from the markets of the world under her system of free trade, and was compelled to force her wares upon the uncivilized countries of the world. That was the substance of what the hon. gentleman stated upon a previous occasion. Well, we have a better of opinion than he has of the ability of England to deal with her competitors in industrial matters, and while it is possible that the development of the iron industries in the United States may for the moment give rise to the impression that England will not be able to compete as fully as we expect, yet, when business interests come back to a more solid condition, and when the present depression of trade in the United States shall have passed away, we think it is reasonably probable that in the matter of the iron industry, England will be able to compete with the United States, and that under our preferential tariff we shall be able to bring even iron goods into Canada from England, as readily as from the United States. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has again gone over the whole question of protection, and free trade, and revenue tariff. I do not believe it would be profitable to follow the hon. gentleman in that, because it would be going to the foundation of the whole question which has been discussed in this House so often. The hon. gentlemen on that side of the House view it from one standpoint, and we on this side of the House view it from another. We view it not from the absolute standpoint of free trade, from the point of view of a revenue tariff, which involves the principles of free trade as far as we can adapt them to our present circumstances. We do not think it is of such vital importance to build up industries of a particular character in our country. We think it is more important to develop the industries which are closely connected with our natural resources; the industries we can carry on with profit. We think that this is better than to attempt to force industries on the country which do not seem to adapt themselves to our condition. My hon. friend has spoken of the interests of Nova Scotia being bound