

of the number of those employed in refining all the sugar Canada needed could easily be verified by the Minister of Finance. Three hundred were all that would be necessary. Was it worth while—would it help the labouring classes to take \$1,000,000 out of their pockets for the purpose of employing but 300 persons, and increasing the already enormous fortunes of the few sugar refiners? The whole Dominion was not interested in that small industry. The people wanted cheap sugar, which the hon. gentlemen seemed determined they should not have. The drawback paid the American refiners on sugar exported to Canada must inure to the benefit of its people. But the Finance Minister would not allow that to continue; he said, practically, we want to swell the fortunes of the Montreal refiners at the expense of the people of Canada. The hon. gentleman from Cardwell had read several extracts from speeches made by leading statesmen in England, to show that the bounties given by France on sugar were injurious to the interests of England, or would prove injurious ultimately; but they all admitted that the effect was to make sugar cheaper in England. It was said here that sugar would not be cheaper under this system than it would be under this new tariff, but all the speeches quoted were to the effect that the bounty system made sugar cheaper. His hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills), as well as his hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Gunn), had dealt most effectively with this subject. They seemed to understand what they were talking about, and, therefore, he would not go further into the matter. It was now said they must import their tea direct from China. He (Sir A. J. Smith) would assert that this was impossible. We could not shut our eyes to the fact that the United States lay to the south of us. We had only two ports—St. John and Halifax—open in the winter, every other port of the Dominion being closed during that season. How, then, could we trade with these distant countries? His hon. friend from King's (Mr. Domville) knew well that they could not navigate the St. Lawrence during the winter months, and that they could not do direct trade from

the St. Lawrence ports with these distant countries. The voyage of a vessel would vary from 30 to 60 days, and, when she arrived at the mouth of the St. Lawrence in winter, she had to seek some other open port. We should mould our policy with due regard to the conditions of our country. The United States had the advantage of us in that respect. Every port there was open in the winter months, and why was it in the interests of the people of this country that two or three men in Montreal, or other cities, should have a monopoly of the tea trade? Was it not desirable to buy tea where we could get it the cheapest? When he looked at the condition of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, he saw that a great and serious injury would be inflicted by the passage of this resolution, which imposed a duty of 10 per cent. on tea imported from the United States. They sent vessels from the western coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, laden with the products of the country, potatoes, apples and fish, even fresh fish, to the United States, and they had tea brought back. The small trader in Nova Scotia would send apples or potatoes, and would get a return cargo of sugar, tea, or other things required for a country store. Were they going to prevent his doing his legitimate business, by saying he must buy from Montreal, which had monopolised the tea business? It was said that an importer could buy in England, and get tea in bond through the United States, and bring it to Montreal in bond, and pay the duty in this country. Would they allow this rich man, this wholesale dealer, who was doing a large business, to import his tea through the United States, in bond, and then tell the poorer people and small traders that they should not buy anywhere else? Why had not the trader, who went to Boston, or New York, a right to buy in bond, and take his tea home, if it would advance the interests of his business? It seemed to him that this provision was entirely in the interest of two or three men, who wanted a complete monopoly of the tea trade of the country. No Canadian would bring his tea direct from China. He would bring it into the United States and pass it through that country in bond, and that man would