

the hon. the Minister of Public Works should consult his Chief Architect, who was a gentleman of great experience in such matters, and see whether this plan could not be carried into effect.

MR. PLUMB said he had personally inspected the arrangements for ventilation, and found that the air they breathed in this House came up through small apertures in the basement. That basement was heavy with the odours of the kitchen and with the other odours of this House. The air passed thence through tubes that conveyed it into this Chamber. Foul air having a tendency to descend, the basement was charged with it, and consequently the air supplied to the House was in the beginning impure. He thought improved ventilation was imperatively demanded, and was inclined to leave the whole matter in the hands of the hon. the Minister of Public Works.

MR. SPROULE said it must be evident to everyone that they were suffering from a most defective ventilation. It was utterly impossible to have pure ventilation while that air was brought up from the basement. He thought there should be openings in the upper part of the Chamber to allow the vitiated atmosphere free egress. He favoured the suggestion of the hon. member for Lambton that air should be supplied from above ground.

MR. PLUMB said he would withdraw the motion, leaving the whole matter in the hands of the Minister of Public Works.

MR. HESSON said he desired to add, on the same subject, that he came to this House a few weeks ago as strong and healthy a man as could be found in Canada, but he was not in attendance in this Chamber more than nine or ten days before he had to give way, and for the last two weeks he had been decidedly under the weather. He attributed this to the bad atmosphere breathed by the members in the Chamber.

WAYS AND MEANS.—THE TARIFF.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

House resumed the adjourned debate on Mr. Tilley's proposed motion to agree to resolutions relative to duties of Cus-

toms and Excise reported from Committee of Ways and Means (March 14th).

MR. HOUDE said it was remarkable that most of the hon. gentlemen of the Opposition who had spoken on the new tariff submitted to the consideration of the House had thought proper to taunt the members on the Ministerial side as being bound by mere partisanship to sustain a policy calculated to bring all descriptions of evils upon the country. The last of them, not the least, the hon. member for South Brant, following the footsteps of his friends who had preceded him, concluded his speech by saying that the Ministerialists were sacrificing their principles. It might, perhaps, seem strange to somebody that others had something of that kind to sacrifice. The hon. gentleman added that they were basely robbing this class of the population, and basely robbing that other class, and so forth; in fact, he indulged himself so liberally on baseness, that one might ask what depths he must have come from. But he (Mr. Houde) would not adopt retaliatory tactics towards the hon. gentlemen of the left. He did not see what prestige Parliament could win in the eyes of intelligent people through the course pursued by those hon. gentlemen. In order to defend one's opinions, or to contest those of others, it was not necessary to revile them. Many of his hon. opponents believed the contrary; at least they spoke as though they thought that the best way of raising themselves up was to try to discredit those who disagreed with them. It was a poor reason, indeed, which only proved that they lacked good ones. What had the hon. gentlemen to reproach the members of the right with? There had been before the country on a Protectionist platform, an overwhelming majority declared in favour of it, and now they were going to give the legislation that the mass of the people manifestly expected, and were still wishing for. Would the hon. gentlemen have considered the Ministerialists more deserving their eulogies had the latter been found able to do once in power precisely the contrary of what they pledged themselves to while in the Opposition ranks? Well, of whatever value might be their approbation, he ventured to say that his Ministerial friends were not very