

certain acts reminded me of the course of pot-house politicians I did not apply, I could not apply, the phrase to hon. gentlemen opposite. I did not intend it to be personal. I am sorry I made use of any such language, and I trust the House will receive my apology with the frankness with which I give it; and I have only to say that I trust others who may, in the heat of the moment, be guilty of unguarded expressions will remember that it is due to this House that we should all endeavor to keep up the dignity of debate.

#### THE DUTY ON MALT.

Mr. ORTON moved for all papers and correspondence in reference to the removal of excise duty from malt, and the collecting of Revenue from malt liquors, as in Great Britain and the United States. He said: Mr. Speaker, the question of removing the duty from malt and placing it on malt liquors, has been casually referred to on many former occasions in this House, chiefly from a brewer's point of view. The matter is now assuming a difficult shape, and is interesting the agriculturists of the country. Our farmers are now competing actively with the farmers of other countries, and Britain herself, in supplying the English and European demand for meat stuffs, and what will place them in a more favorable position to compete successfully, is of importance to the whole country. After a long and arduous struggle in England, between the farmers and the brewers and maltsters, the duty has been removed from malt and placed upon malt liquors, and this has been done in the interest of the British farmer, because it is found that malt is a most valuable article of food, and can be used with great advantage in fattening animals. Malt is, in fact, partially digested barley, and one bushel of malt will go as far as one and a-half bushels of chopped barley, but while an excise duty is collected on malt it cannot be used as a common article of fodder for cattle. A great deal of barley, unfit for brewing purposes, could be used after being malted to very great advantage in cattle feeding. In the United States the duty is collected by stamps on the barrels or other packages of malt liquor, and is found to be a very convenient mode of collecting the duty, much more agreeable to the brewing interests, and also with benefit to the revenue. At the same time the farmers are at liberty to use malt for feeding purposes, which is a great boon to cattle breeders and cattle feeders, and gives them an advantage over our farmers in supplying the old country market with beef. I will read a letter from F. W. Stone, Esq., of Guelph, one of the most celebrated cattle breeders in Ontario, in reference to the subject:

"GUELPH, 31st December, 1880.

"Dr. G. T. Orton, M.P.:

"MY DEAR SIR,—In reply to your esteemed favor of 22nd respecting my opinion in reference to malt as food for cattle and other stock, beg to say that there cannot be any doubt but that malt, or even sprouted barley, is excellent for stock, but the high duty upon malt prevents it from being used as food for stock to advantage, and as the raising and feeding of cattle and sheep for the English market is yearly increasing, and likely to increase, so as to become one of our principal exports, our farmers should be afforded every opportunity to compete with our neighbors in the United States for the cattle trade with Great Britain. They certainly have advantages in pasture and cheap corn, and every inducement should be given to our farmers that would enable them to raise and feed stock for exportation. If the duty was taken off malt, no doubt many would use malt and sprouted barley more or less for feed for stock. If our country is to prosper, our farmers must raise and feed stock, to keep their farms in condition by consuming most of the coarse grain raised. If farmers do not feed their land it will very soon not feed them. The farmers in England, for many long years, petitioned for the repeal of the malt tax (and at last succeeded), on the grounds that it prevented them from using malt for feeding stock, to their great disadvantage, as much barley not fit for malt, or that the maltsters would not buy on account of the high duty, could be profitably made into malt or sprouted for feeding stock. The strongest argument you can use is to point to what England has done respecting duty on malt, where such an immense quantity was made and enormous revenue derived therefrom. To take the duty off malt and put it on beer and malt liquors, could not injure the revenue, and would give the farmers the benefit of using malt to feed their stock.

"Wishing you a happy New Year,

"I am, my dear Sir, yours truly,

"FREDERICK WM. STONE."

Mr. PLUMB.

Also from David Foote, Esq., a large farmer and cattle feeder of Elora, in my county:

"ELORA, 27th December, 1880.

"DEAR DOCTOR,—I got your letter. I see by the newspapers that the farming community in Great Britain are very much pleased that the duty has been taken off malt for feeding purposes. What is good for them, in this respect, cannot be bad for us. My own idea is, that the removal of this duty here would be a very great boon conferred on the farmers of Canada, particularly those in the cattle-feeding districts.

"It is a well known fact, that nearly all vegetable substances, when subjected to certain modes of preparation increase in nutritious qualities; for instance, crushed grain is more nourishing than when left whole; bread, still more so than flour; there is as much difference between crushed barley and malt, as between unleavened bread and a well baked baker's loaf; 'hard tack' is hard to take, but a well baked loaf of bread is always palatable. From the change which barley undergoes in malting one bushel of malt is equal to at least one and a-half of chopped barley, for feeding purposes. In the section of country where I was born and bred, it was no uncommon thing for farmers to buy malt for their horses and cattle, paying a duty I think, of about half-a-crown per bushel.

"Another argument in favor of your motion, is, that owing to the repeated failure of spring wheat, the attention of the farmers will be turned more to stock-raising for exportation, and a greater breadth of barley will be sown, which should be utilized to the best advantage.

"The prospects for those feeding cattle for the British market look bright. The company of which John Black, John Scott and Goodfellow are members, have already purchased nearly 3,000 head for April and May delivery; 600 of which are in the counties of Wellington and Waterloo. The prices to be paid will average \$5.75 per 100 lbs., or an aggregate of about a quarter million dollars, not bad for the beginning of the season.

"Hoping you will get such a measure passed as will enable us to get all the malt we want for feeding purposes,

"I am,

"Yours truly,

"DAVID FOOTE."

I hope the Government will give the matter their early and serious consideration, as I can assure them that it is yearly becoming of greater importance to the agricultural interests of Canada, and the change will also be welcomed by the large brewing interests of this country.

Mr. MERNER. I can thoroughly endorse the views expressed by Dr. Orton on this matter. It will be of great advantage to brewers, as though they will still have to pay duty, if it is placed on malt liquors by means of stamps, as is the case in the United States, it will save them a great deal of inconvenience and annoyance that they are now unnecessarily subjected to by excise officers. I have no doubt also that it will be of use to the farmers. I would like to see the Government attend to this subject as soon as possible. The revenue will be collected cheaper in this way than by the present mode.

Motion withdrawn.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I rise to propose a motion, which will be seconded by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, and will, I believe, meet with universal assent. Some of our friends have suffered very much in the House of late from their sedentary occupation and want of exercise, and we think, therefore, in order to restore them to their usual state of health, they should have an opportunity, this evening, of stretching their legs, by taking a walk in the cool, bracing air. I therefore move that when the House rises at six o'clock, it stands adjourned till three o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Motion agreed to.

#### NEW PENITENTIARY AT DORCHESTER.

Mr. WELDON moved for a return of all machinery and other articles removed from the St. John Penitentiary to the new penitentiary at Dorchester, and the estimated value; also of all machinery and articles heretofore in use in the St. John Penitentiary sold by auction or otherwise disposed of, and the proceeds of such sales.

Mr. ANGLIN said it was very much to be hoped that when the returns came down they would remove many of