

to convert those trees into the manufactured article, and ship the product by rail to any market they please. In view of this fact it seems to me most important that this industry should be protected by an export duty. I had, therefore, much pleasure in supporting the depositions which came here for the purpose of asking an imposition of that duty. I advocated the imposition of duty on pine logs last year of \$2, with power to the Government to raise it to \$3. I claim that the effect of that imposition of \$2 on pine logs, which was imposed last Session, has been decidedly in the interest of the country and in the interest of the log producers, as has been shown by my hon. friend from North Perth (Mr. Hesson). That hon. gentleman says the duty was \$1. My impression was that it was \$2, with power given to the Government to raise it to \$3. The effect of that duty, I submit, was to stop the shipment of pine logs from Canada to the United States, and to encourage the cutting of those logs within our own borders. That has been the result of the duty on pine logs, and I have no doubt but that the imposition of a similar duty, even a duty of \$1 per thousand on elm logs, would have a similar effect; we would produce the manufactured article, and the duty would tend to discountenance the conveyance of logs across the line to manufacturers in the United States. The adoption of a similar policy in regard to elm logs would be an indication to people on the other side of the border, those who have been taking logs across, that they cannot continue to deplete that section of the country by continuing that kind of business. I must say that I felt much regret when I learned that this duty had been struck off by the hon. Finance Minister. I felt, however, after listening to the remarks of that hon. gentleman, that the Government had given consideration to the subject, and that when the matter came up another year it would result in the imposition of an export duty. I admit there is some force in the argument of the hon. member for Middlesex (Mr. Roome), that those people who have gone in during the winter and taken out elm logs might consider it unjust that the Government should take advantage of their operations last winter to impose a duty on the logs which they had taken out to convey to their mills in the States. But the steps taken and the expression given by the Government will, I hope, give those people to understand that the matter has received the consideration of the Government, and that they will deal with it, and that sufficient evidence will be given to satisfy the Government as to the desirability of imposing an export duty. There are many sections of the country that produce growths of hardwood, such, for example, as the section which the hon. member for Cornwall (Mr. Bergin) is going to open up by railway communication, and many other localities. I, therefore, consider it important that the Government should give attention to this subject, and no doubt they will impose a proper duty upon this article, and that thereby labor may be protected and our people enabled to deal with this trade in the best manner possible, and direct their efforts to the conversion of timber into money.

Mr. EDWARDS. From the beginning of the Session up to the present time I have not taken up the time of the House for a single moment, and I would not, on this occasion, occupy it for any length of time, even if I was capable of doing so, but for the reason that I wish to record my strong approval of the course of the Government in withdrawing the duty proposed on the export of elm logs. My hon. friend from Ottawa (Mr. Perley), who has just taken his seat, is a protectionist. He believes in imposing a protective duty as against the agriculturists of this country on all that they import, but he also wishes to impose an export duty on their product. I hold that elm trees, growing on our farmer's lands, are as much his property and his products as are his wheat, barley, peas, and everything he produces, and it would be a very great injury to impose an

Mr. PERLEY (Ottawa).

export duty on his products. To carry this principle fully into effect, it would be just as reasonable to say that the wheat and barley of this country must be manufactured in this country; that we shall not export it as it is grown, but must manufacture it into meal. I think that would be entirely wrong, and I think it would be quite as wrong to impose this export duty on elm logs. Now, I would like to ask the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Perley), if he would like the principles he has advocated carried fully into effect, because, if they were, the lumber which he produces and which I produce, would not be exported in boards or deals, but would have to be manufactured into sashes, doors, and other articles of that kind.

Mr. PERLEY (Ottawa). I did not take that ground at all. I took the ground of protection to the manufacturer.

Mr. EDWARDS. That our boards and deals, instead of being exported in that form, would have to be manufactured into sashes, doors, blinds, boxes and other articles of that kind.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). And give employment to labor.

Mr. EDWARDS. Then, with regard to the idea which seems to prevail in the minds of a great many hon. gentlemen, that the Americans would have to pay this export duty instead of the people of this country, I say that idea is entirely wrong. The time has not arrived, and will not arrive for some time, when our lumber will be an absolute necessity to the Americans. A great many believe that the price of our lumber is fixed in this country, but that is a fallacy. The price is fixed in the American market, and we have not one word to say in fixing the price. Elm logs are not a necessity to the people of the United States. The question with them is simply one of transport, because there is in the Southern States a far greater quantity of lumber than we have in this country, and it is simply a question of where the lumber can be transported from most cheaply. I say that it would be a great injustice to our farmers, a class of the community to which this country is far more indebted than to any or all other classes combined, to impose an export duty on elm logs. I am glad, indeed, that the Government have seen fit to withdraw that imposition, and I hope that nothing will occur during the recess to cause the Government to change their mind. They need not fear a defeat in any degree in a matter of that kind. For my own part I may say that I came here to advocate what I believe to be in the country's interest, and not those which are in the interest of any party; and when the Government move as they have done in this matter, or in any other matter which I believe is a matter of justice to a class to whom this country is far more indebted than to any other class—that is, the agricultural class—when the Government do this, they shall always have my hearty support.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I add my congratulations to those of the hon. gentleman who has just spoken, to the Finance Minister for the stand he has taken in this matter. I am very glad that he has seen fit to withdraw this obnoxious impost. It shows that, tossing for so many years on the stormy sea of politics, it has not taken out of him all the milk of human kindness, and that he still feels for the poor struggling masses of the country. The hon. member for North Perth (Mr. Hesson) and the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Brown) made glorious speeches on the great benefits which would arise to a certain class of the community from this duty, and the hon. member for Hamilton made a statement about the price which was paid for these logs in the country—and I think the hon. member for Perth confirmed the statement, viz., that the price paid was \$6 a thousand. Now, during the last two years these logs have been cut on my land, and during that time the highest price paid