

ing of a preferential arrangement with Great Britain, and it demands the assent of this House before it can be put in operation. But suppose the hon. gentleman has the power, and the resolution passed, has the hon. gentleman issued the order to the Customs-house officers? If so, by what right has he done so? Has the Governor General in Council, on a report of the Controller of Customs submitted to Council, set his sign manual to an order authorizing the issuing of a proclamation for this to be done? If he has not, hon. gentlemen have no power on earth to do it. Who is to decide? It is to be on the report of the Controller of Customs, submitted to the Governor General in Council, endorsed and put into legal form, and not in a hole-and-corner notice given by the Controller of Customs, but by proclamation.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Mr. Davies). Not at all; this is the same as any other tariff resolution.

Mr. **FOSTER**. If I concede the point that under an agreement respecting changes in duties this may be so, and may have the force of law, constitutionally this change proposed has not the force of law. But if I admit that under the agreement under which we have heretofore acted in regard to changes in duties and concede that that has the force of law, I press the second point, namely, that there is only one mode by which effect can be given to this proposed change, and that mode is by Order in Council on the report of the Controller of Customs. I will ask my hon. friend if that has been done?—if with respect to this matter there has been a report made by the Controller of Customs to the Governor General in Council, and if it has been acted upon?

The **PRIME MINISTER**. The tariff has been applied as it always has been applied in these matters. The tariff comes into force now, and the hon. gentleman knows it as well as I do. I am surprised at hearing him speak in this way. This course has been taken time and again. The tariff resolutions are brought here, and they go into force by executive action at once.

Mr. **FOSTER**. The hon. gentleman does not meet my second point at all. There is the rule laid down. Action must be taken on the report made by the Controller of Customs, and assented to by the Governor General in Council. I ask if this has been done?

The **PRIME MINISTER**. I say the tariff was brought down and applied as all tariffs are. The hon. gentleman has done it time and again.

Mr. **FOSTER**. The hon. gentleman knows he has not passed an Order—he has confessed it, and at all events he has not denied it. If the hon. gentleman has given orders

through one of the officers to the Customs-house officers of this country to-day to let in British goods at one-eighth per cent less than the regular tariff, he has made an order which he has no authority to give.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the kind attention with which you have listened to my remarks, which have been somewhat lengthy—

Mr. **CHARLTON**. And the House too.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Now I ask the hon. gentleman, who will probably reply, to excuse me from the great pleasure of listening to him as I have to go to the city of Toronto to-night.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright). If the hon. gentleman is really obliged to go, all I can say is that he carries with him my most sincere sympathy. Before the hon. gentleman rose I knew how hardly hit he had been, but he need not have shown it quite so plainly in his speech. But as the hon. gentleman must go, I will wait until he has an opportunity to return, and I therefore move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The **PRIME MINISTER** moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

- MONDAY, 26th April, 1897.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 58) respecting the Temiscouata Railway.—(Mr. Domville.)

MOUNTED POLICE PENSION ACT.

Mr. **DAVIN** moved :

That the order for second reading of Bill (No. 57) to amend the Mounted Police Pension Act be discharged, and the Bill withdrawn.

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Explain.

Mr. **DAVIN**. The Bill of which this is an amendment, as the House knows, was originally prepared by myself and adopted by the Government of Sir John Macdonald. That is the Bill dealing with pensions in the North-west Mounted Police. I had a Bill