

Mr. FOSTER. Molasses is defined as nearly as it can be defined. It is produced in the process of making cane sugar from the juice of the cane. Syrup is more of a by-product of sugar refining.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I must say that these definitions are elastic in the highest degree. Wholly apart from the benevolent motive of protecting the community from an indifferent article it does appear to me one of the queerest regulations I have ever read, that you can import molasses which, tested by polariscope, shows 60 degrees—that is to say, contains something like two-thirds of its weight in sugar—at a duty of 1½ cents per gallon; but if you import molasses at 30 degrees—

Mr. FOSTER. No; that is not molasses.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Well, syrup, if you like the word better—

Mr. FOSTER. "Stuff" would be a better word.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If you import this inferior quality containing only one-third of its weight of sugar, the charge, as nearly as I can make out, is 11½ cents per gallon. Molasses that tests 35 degrees is dutiable at about 6½ cents per gallon. That is to say, the less valuable the article the higher the duty.

Mr. FOSTER. It would be a good thing if we could keep it out of the country, and this will have a tendency to do it.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Had you not better at once and for all just legislate that nobody in Canada is to consume any syrups or molasses which are not manufactured in some refinery satisfactory to the Government. That would simplify the position, and we should understand where we are.

Mr. FOSTER. We have always been governed by the principle—

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. By the principle of looking after the sugar refiners—I know; both the hon. gentleman and his predecessors have done that.

Mr. FOSTER. The people who know what good molasses is, such as the people who live in the Maritime Provinces, all think it would be better to keep this inferior stuff out.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. My hon. friend here (Mr. Davies) is from the Maritime Provinces—

Mr. FOSTER. He will subscribe to that doctrine.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I warrant he does not subscribe to the idea of paying 11½ cents per gallon. I cannot understand on what principle these duties are arranged, unless you are prepared to prohibit them as injurious to health.

Mr. FOSTER. Molasses below 35 degrees is about that.

Item agreed to.

Window shades 35 per cent ad valorem, but not less than 5 cents per square yard.

Mr. FOSTER. I want to make it read "Window shade rollers," and drop out the rest.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What do you mean by a window shade roller?

Mr. FOSTER. It is the roller on which the shade is mounted, composed of wood, the spring and the brass fittings.

Mr. McMULLEN. Does it include the curtain?

Mr. FOSTER. No.

Mr. MULOCK. What is the cost of the ordinary window shade per square yard?

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose they run from 75 cents each up.

Mr. GIBSON. 20 cents a running foot. There are 3 square yards in an ordinary window shade.

Mr. MULOCK. I would like if the hon. gentleman could give me the figures.

Mr. FOSTER. I have not got them with me now. I had them here when we discussed the item in committee.

Mr. MULOCK. I am told this 5 cents a square yard is a very excessive rate on some classes of window shades.

Mr. FOSTER. I desire to add to the item of window shades these words: "or mounted on rollers."

Mr. GIBSON. How does the hon. gentleman propose to apply the tax of 5 cents per square yard to rollers?

Mr. FOSTER. I leave that to the Customs officers to do.

Item agreed to.

Antiseptic surgical dressings, such as absorbent cotton, cotton wool, lint, lambs wool, tow, jute, gauzes, and oakum prepared for use as surgical dressing, plain or medicated, 20 per cent.

Mr. FOSTER. This is a new item. At the present time these are generally placed in the unenumerated list.

Mr. MULOCK. On what principle are you taxing these articles?

Mr. FOSTER. On the principle that we want some revenue.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If this tax is for revenue purposes, let us understand how much the Finance Minister expects to obtain from it.

Mr. FOSTER. I cannot tell, because these articles have been unenumerated.