

to time—as he began to realise the full enormity and iniquity of the project—I can very well understand that the hon. gentleman, like Frankenstein, was appalled at the spectre he had invoked. I doubt if there was ever brought down in any civilised country—unless in the United States, where, as is known, they dispense with any responsible parent for a scheme of the kind—I doubt if there was ever brought down a scheme so complicated, so intricate, a scheme which the hon. gentleman will find it so difficult to work out practically, and of the actual results of which he, himself, admits he is quite unable, at this moment, to make any accurate estimate. My objection to this scheme goes deep. I object to it, not merely on the ground of the increase of taxes it involves, or of its complicated details, but on a much higher ground than that. I deny entirely the justice of the course which the majority of the House appear, I fear, determined to follow. I admit their power, but I deny their right. I say that the principle which I have heard enunciated by the hon. the Minister of Finance—the principle that it is the duty of the Government to enable certain sections of the community to tax the rest of the people for their private gain—is of all others the principle which a free people should least submit themselves to. I say that it is the very essence of all injustice. I say that they could not be fair in the application of such a principle no matter how earnestly they might try. And I tell the hon. gentleman that when he says that, by any readjustment of the tariff, it is possible for him, or for any Government, that ever existed, to protect, by additional taxes, men who find the market for their productions in other countries, he commits himself to a palpable absurdity. I tell him that, if he wishes to protect the great interests of the country, if he desires to protect the lumbermen in the extreme prostration of their business, if he desires to do justice to the fishermen, to the shipping interests, to the great carrying interests of the country, or even to the agriculturists, to whom he has given a sham protection in this tariff, if he does honestly desire this, there is but one expedient for him to take, and that is the old and well-known expedient—not of

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giving a miserable drawback on manufactured articles, but of giving a direct bounty on the articles produced by these classes. If you desire to be honest, if you desire to do justice to the classes I have named, there is but this way of doing it, and, if you plead that this is an impossibility, that nothing you can do will enable you really to recoup to these men what you are now taking out of their pockets by your present tariff,—then, I say, that that statement may be true enough, but that had you made the attempt we could at least have admitted that, great as was your folly, you were, at any rate, honest in your folly, and not guilty of deliberately deceiving those who placed you where you are. These are the classes whom, of all others, a statesman should desire to protect, and I repeat, there is but one way for you to do it. Estimate if you can—I admit it will be a task of a great deal of difficulty—how much you are going to enhance the cost of production of these men's products, by this tariff you have brought down, and then pay these men a proportionate bounty on the articles they produce. This special legislation, such as we have now got to deal with, is inconceivably bad. It is the very thing which every free country has always fought against. I say that you are committing a gross retrogression, you are going back for centuries, although I admit that the hon. gentlemen opposite—some of them—are the very men for their work, and that it will be nothing strange for them to convert their dupes into their serfs. But, when the people come to understand what is now being proposed, the chances of my hon. friend ever succeeding in regaining his place in this House is, if I know anything of the temper of his constituents, problematical to the last degree.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about your own constituency?

MR. CARTWRIGHT: I am afraid I paid too much attention to other people's constituencies. I fear there is no doubt that if I had devoted myself to my own old constituency for three or four weeks immediately preceding the election, I would not have had the honour of representing the noble riding which I now