

be the tendency if the duty was too high. I presume it is the desire of every one in this House that the nail men should live and that they should have a reasonable profit, but not too large a profit. The reduction in the price of nails of 40 cents on the hundred pounds which will be brought about by this new tariff is a considerable concession to the consuming classes of this country. I think the Government were wise in reducing the duty on nails, because the tendency undoubtedly would be to make the competition in Canada ultimately so keen that the nail-makers would not be able to make a living. As it is now, it would have this effect: That while we have in Canada I am informed fourteen nail-making concerns, seven of them buy the rod and draw the wire, while seven others buy the wire and make the nail. The concern in the city of Brantford is one of the seven which buys the wire, but owing to the reduction of duty they are compelled to put in a wire drawing machine, and the benefit accrue to the country that it has increased the demand for labour by compelling these seven wire concerns each to put in a wire-drawing plant. Brantford is being benefited by the reduction to the extent that it will double the number of employees engaged in nail making, while it will reduce the price of nails to the consumer exactly 40 cents per 100 pounds.

Mr. DAVIN. I think, Sir, the hands are the hands of Esau, but the voice is the voice of Jacob. The gentleman who contested Brant (Mr. Henry) with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd), who has just addressed this House: his voice is heard here to-night, although we have another member in his place. The speech of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd) is the speech of a high protectionist. He says that these nail manufacturers should live, and he lays down the proposition that this Government should make a tariff to enable these people to live. I had been educated in regard to this, sitting at the feet of the Gamaliel who is now the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and I learned from that gentleman that these manufacturers were robbers, scoundrels great and scoundrels small.

Mr. FOSTER. Somebody has changed.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, yes; the point of view is the great difference. Sir, I am not convinced by the argument of my hon. friend (Mr. Heyd), and I must ask him to be more considerate for hon. gentlemen who are his leaders. The idea of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd) coming into this House and characterizing a motion such as I make here in regard to this item as a buncombe motion: why, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd) should be more considerate for his leaders. It is not respectful for a gentleman who has just come into this House to throw a slur on a man of the standing of the Min-

Mr. HEYD.

ister of Trade and Commerce, on a man of the standing of the Minister of Customs, on a man of the standing in this House of the Minister of Finance. The idea of these gentlemen, who are Nestors in politics, being flouted by one of their newest fledglings in this House, causes even me to come to their defence, when their hon. friend (Mr. Heyd) asperses them in this contemptuous manner. I agree with the sentiments of my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver) in regard to this item. I consider that we should have nails on the free list, and in the interests of the farmers of this country, I hope that my hon. friends who are now in power and in the majority in this House, will remember their professions, remember their pledges when in opposition, and place patriotism above party, and place their duty to the farmers of this country above their duty of the moment in this committee.

Motion (Mr. Davin) negatived.

Iron or steel shoe tacks, and ordinary cut tacks, leathered or not, brads, sprigs and shoe nails, double pointed tacks, and other tacks of iron and steel, n.e.s., thirty-five per cent ad valorem.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the relative degree of protection as between the old tariff and the present one?

The CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS. It is difficult to ascertain the uniform ad valorem rate. On many of these items, I dare say, the duty would run as high as 45 and 50 per cent, while in others it was not so high. We have placed these on our highest list of duties.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The old duty ran from 26 to 60 per cent in some of the items.

Mr. FOSTER. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) venture the opinion as to whether the present duty, which certainly is a great lowering on the small tacks, will be able to maintain the industry?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The representatives of these various industries who come to see us generally allege that the protection is not enough for them; but we still hope there is enough. Certainly it is a very severe reduction, and I cannot answer my hon. friend's question further than to say that our expectation is that they will still do business.

Mr. FOSTER. For the very small cost on the quantity used by the general consumer, does my hon. friend think that it would be well to endanger the industry? It is not likely that the very small reduction in the cost of shoe tacks will appreciably lower the price to the consumer. I think it is simply a squeeze that the shoe-tack maker will get, while the consumer will get no advantage at all. It may be of considerable advantage to the manufacturer who uses these tacks largely; but