

Hon. Mr. SCOTT again explained the Order-in-Council of 1874, reducing the duties on raw sugar, in order to allow the Montreal refinery to work off the stock on hand and the cargoes arriving. He had not stated that Mr. Drummond had expressed himself satisfied with the legislation.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—You said he thanked the Government.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I said that there were cargoes of sugar arriving. At all events, the Government, when their attention was called to it, reduced the duty on certain classes of raw sugars, but not enough to continue the refinery in operation. It, however, enabled them to work off the stock they had on hand. It was a very small favor—a temporary one. I stated, further, that Mr. Drummond gave it as his opinion that the American drawback was about 55 cents per 100 lbs. in excess of the duty paid on the raw article when imported into the United States.

Hon. Mr. RYAN—I was only afraid the impression would be made on the House, of which the hon. gentleman's words were susceptible, that Mr. Drummond felt satisfied with the action of the present Government. The report of the Committee of the House of Commons on the sugar question is, "that under the tariff of the United States the American refiner obtains a bounty of 55 cents per 100 lbs., and that the Canadian tariff as it now stands imposes such duties on the different grades of sugar, that when reduced to the *ad valorem* standard it will be found to be lower on the higher grades." They go on to say with regard to the statement that the drawback to the American refiner is 55 cents, "the Committee thinks it greatly exaggerated, and wholly unfounded." My honorable friend in impressing his view of the inutility of the sugar refineries in the country, seemed most emphatically to refer to Montreal. Now, Montreal is not the only place that has had a sugar refinery. I think there was one in Halifax, and I believe large preparations were being made to establish sugar refineries in Nova Scotia. The paragraph in the Speech relating to the laws regulating duties on customs is important. I would like to know that there is some intention on the part of Government of remedying the hardships under which many of our manufacturers labor owing to our not adopting—I will not call it a retaliatory, but a reciprocal policy—something, in fact, similar to the system which exists in the United States. It is rumored there is an intention of assimilating our customs tariff to theirs, and I would like to know that it will be in the direc-

tion of protecting our manufacturers and the industries of the country.

Hon. Mr. PENNY—What Mr. Drummond complained of was the alteration in the tariff made by Sir Francis Hincks when he was Finance Minister. Mr. Drummond said that change ruined him.

Hon. Mr. RYAN—Where does he say that? It is not in his evidence.

Hon. Mr. PENNY—I think it is.

Hon. Mr. SMITH—It is not our tariff Mr. Drummond complained of, but the drawback given by the American Government. Unless our Government is prepared to meet that drawback by a tariff equal to it on the same grade of sugars, refiners can never succeed in this country.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS suggested certain verbal amendments to the address which were agreed to and the motion was then carried.

The House adjourned at 6.20 p.m., till Thursday.

THURSDAY, Feb. 15th.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3 p.m.

MAIL SERVICE.

Hon. Mr. BOURINOT moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House:

1st—Copies of all contracts entered into during the year 1876, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mails from Sydney to Cow Bay, Little and Big Glace Rays, and Bridgeport in the County of Cape Breton.

2nd—Also, copies of notices for tenders, and the titles of the newspapers wherein they were inserted, with all copies of other documents, correspondence, &c., in reference to such contracts.

Also—Copies of all other contracts entered into in the years 1874, 1875 and 1876, in the said County of Cape Breton, with vouchers of payments for said services for transmission of mails.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said there was no objection to the address going. The information required in answer to the first and second paragraphs he had then in his hand, and it was at the service of the honorable gentleman. But the third clause would involve some considerable copying of papers. If the honorable gentleman would point out anything specific, he would be glad to take a note of it.

Hon. Mr. BOURINOT said he referred to general irregularities in the contract for the transmission of mails. It would be difficult to point them all out specifically, and he would prefer to wait until the papers were laid on the table.