

ent places. Ethyl alcohol was used largely for extracts and in nearly all kinds of medicines, and a reduction of the duties would be welcomed by druggists of the Dominion. Mr. Mattinson said that the duties per gallon of alcohol were \$2.80½, and the cost per gallon \$1.15, making a total of \$3.95½. Alcohol was sold in the United States for 35 cents, and he had since learned could be bought for less than 25 cents, as against \$1.15 in Canada. Their excise equalled \$2.07 per gallon.

"What is your explanation of the difference in cost?" asked Hon. Mr. Fielding.

"There is only one explanation, to my mind, that it is going into the pockets of the manufacturers. There might be some reason for alcohol costing a little more, but not such an enormous difference."

Sir Richard Cartwright asked that the druggists seek some explanation of the great difference in the cost of alcohol in Canada and the United States.

After the matter of alcohol had been disposed of, other items of importance to druggists were considered.

Mr. Mattinson asked that one item in the tariff, nitros ether, be stricken out, as it pays an alcohol tax, being made of alcohol, but not consisting of alcohol. Sulphuric ether was in the same position. Acetic was charged a duty of 63 per cent. per gallon, while in New York it was valued at 20 cents per gallon. The duty charged here, with cost added, was 220 per cent. more than in the United States. A plain 20 or 25 per cent. duty *ad valorem* would give the manufacturers all the protection they deserved. Dealing with ambiguity in the rendering of some of the tariff items, and to get over this, they suggested a court of appeal to consist of two or three druggists at Ottawa. It was unreasonable to expect an excise officer to keep track of the nature of all drugs. Microscopes were allowed in free for use in universities, but were otherwise taxed. The matter should be arranged on a duty basis or a free basis. Atomizers, to avoid confusion, should be enumerated. They were classed as rubber goods, and also as glass goods. On patent medicines the duty should remain as at present, but on all new patent medicines the formula should be submitted to Government experts at Ottawa, as many of them were worthless in point of health. They did not wish the formula exposed; it was done in France, Germany, and other countries.

Mr. Swift suggested an inland revenue stamp on secret preparations. Mr. Swift said some patent preparations were sold for \$5 per bottle that cost ten cents.

Mr. Mattinson asked that crude drugs remain as they are, as otherwise they could not hope

to compete with other pharmaceutical manufacturers.

In reply to Hon. Mr. Paterson, Mr. Mattinson said the duty of fifty per cent. on patent medicines compelled their manufacture in Canada, and Mr. Swift said the duty did not interfere with the price to the consumer.

RECOGNIZED THEM AT ONCE.

We were all telling mosquito stories at a New Jersey summer resort, when one particularly audacious man said: "Oh, that's nothing. I was off the coast of Barentat last summer on a fishing trip, and while we were out on deck early in the evening, smoking and chatting, a great cloud of mosquitoes, all of them monstrous birds, came out from shore and settled on the boat; and do you know, in fifteen minutes they had stripped it of every inch of canvas, and left the masts bare as beanpoles!"

We held up our hands in deprecation at this tale, when another of the party exclaimed: "Well, don't be astonished. I can vouch for that. It was only a week after that I was on a trip along the coast, and the same swarm of mosquitoes came out after us."

The first speaker didn't seem to appreciate this unexpected support, for he muttered: "Hump! They did, eh? Well, how did you know they were the same mosquitoes, eh?"

"How did I know?" repeated the other, with a chuckle. "How did I know? Why, they all had on canvas overalls."—From the "Editor's Drawer," in *Harper's Magazine* for December.

"NO DOG LATIN FOR ME."

NEW ZEALAND still maintains its reputation as the Legislative Experimental Laboratory of the Empire. A Pharmacy Bill is now wending its way through the Parliament of the colony, but not content with trying his hand upon that measure, Mr. Hogg, the member for Masterton, proposes another piece of medico-pharmaceutical legislation. He wants to prohibit a medical man from holding a *post mortem* on the body of any person whom he has attended shortly before, or at the time of the death, and he is also troubled about the illegibility, to the layman, of medical prescriptions. He therefore demands that it shall be enacted that whenever a medical practitioner gives a written prescription, he shall write it plainly in English, and without abbreviations or symbols. Further, that whenever a medical practitioner or chemist dispenses medicine for sale, he shall affix to the bottle or package a label setting forth his own name, and also clearly stating in English, and without abbreviations or symbols, the name, nature, and ingredients of the medicine.—*Chemist and Druggist*.