

Canada. Looking at the prices of the article, they found the foreign quoted at 100 per cent. more than the Canadian, while the increase on the Canadian tobacco, instead of being 5 per cent. was a little over 45 per cent. This was the way those gentlemen had protected the Canadian industry in the cultivation of tobacco. The reasons were quite evident in favour of the cultivation of Canadian tobacco, which could be done with great advantage. The motion of his hon. friend from Beauce did not say that Canadian tobacco should be free of duty for all time to come; but it should be free for a certain number of years until its cultivation and manufacture had become sufficiently developed to allow of a tax being imposed. The farmers asked to be allowed to cultivate this plant without restriction, which would give them a large return. This class deserved to be protected, if any discrimination were made, more than any other, as on that class we all depended for the necessities of life. But the Government said that their predecessors put an excise duty on tobacco. But the duty then was such that the farmers could profitably cultivate the plant, while to-day the duty was a prohibitory one. The hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue had libelled the Province of Quebec, no doubt unwittingly, when he said its climate was not suited to tobacco cultivation. The hon. gentleman should remember the time when the Province of Quebec not only raised quite sufficient wheat for its own purposes, but exported very large quantities. He knew that the farmers now, after a number of years, during which they did not cultivate wheat to the same extent on account of the weevil, were returning to its cultivation and increasing the quantity every year. He had received a letter from the Lower St. Lawrence, stating that, owing to the fine season, the farmers were planting double the quantity of seed this year than previous years. He did not agree with the criticism of the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue, and would vote for this amendment.

MR. BABY said this question being one in which his constituents were considerably interested, it was his duty to

MR. LANGEVIN.

come forward and press their views on the attention of the House. Down to the moment when the duty on tobacco was in the same measure doubled, the raising of tobacco in the Province of Quebec was greatly extended. As all knew, for some reason or other, the wheat crop in that Province was not large; sometimes this was due to extreme warmth, at other times to the long drought or to the heavy and continuous rains, and owing to this fact, the farmers of the Province had to devote themselves to the growth of other cereals and plants; and hence, during some years, the cultivation of tobacco was very largely increased. He spoke with *connaissance de cause*. But when this Government raised so considerably the duty on tobacco, and enforced the law so rigorously as they did through their officers, the farmers were obliged to stop raising this article; and, as a consequence, this entailed a heavy loss on the farmers of Lower Canada. He did not say that tobacco was raised in all the counties of Lower Canada. It, as well as cereals, was raised in certain counties more than in others, according to the nature of the soil and surroundings. In the counties of Joliette and Berthier, and above all in Montcalm, an enormous quantity of tobacco was raised, and a number of the farmers had principally supported themselves by this means; but to-day they were obliged to wholly abandon this source of income. And what had followed? These farmers had necessarily lost a very large sum in the returns they obtained from their land. The culture of tobacco succeeded perfectly in Lower Canada. For some years he knew that this had been the case. He could attest that this had been the fact during his experience of the past twenty years, and he was perfectly aware that it grew there to perfection. The same statement was true with regard to wheat. The hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue alleged that wheat, like tobacco, could not be raised successfully in the Province of Quebec, but the hon. gentleman ought to know better; he should know, for instance, that formerly from the district of Richelieu, an enormous quantity of wheat was exported. That region was well then called the *grenier* of Lower