

you discriminate against us, and in retaliation, unless you make concessions to us, we will penalize the articles that you send to this country.' The United States having made these demands, we quietly yielded to them. Does not that put Canada in a position that if she dared to enter into any arrangement with any foreign country by which she admits the products of that country at a lower rate of duty than we impose upon similar articles coming from the United States, the United States may say to us: 'You must yield to our wishes or we will penalize your products.' That is the position the Canadian government have taken in connection with this treaty, and I can only say for myself that I regret it exceedingly. We should maintain the position that was assumed some time ago, by the premier of this country, and let the United States deal with their tariff just as they please, and we will deal with our tariff in accordance with the interests of this country. These are the views which, I am quite satisfied, are held in the province from which I come by 99 per cent of the people, and if an expression of opinion could have been secured in that province at least—I speak for no other—the result would have been an overwhelming majority in favour of rejecting the tariff arrangement with the United States.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I am sure my hon. friend will not quarrel with me if I say that while I would gladly enter into a detailed analysis, it is scarcely within my power to do so at the present moment. I may say to him with respect to the United States tariff, that I think on examination he will see that the concessions made to them are of an extremely small and unimportant character. Out of a total revenue of what I suppose, this year will come to sixty or seventy million dollars from customs, we will make a reduction as far as they are concerned, of one hundred and fifty, or at the outside, two hundred thousand dollars, if, indeed, we do reduce it to that extent, which I somewhat doubt. The broader question which underlies the whole, and which has justly, I think, had

great influence with the country—I admit it has perhaps greater influence with myself than it may have with my hon. friend opposite—is this; wholly apart from the question whether or not we were in the position to gain a temporary advantage over the United States by standing pat, as it is called—which, probably was the case, I look at the matter from a larger standpoint. I think it is highly desirable, not merely in our own interest, but in the broadest sense, in the interest of the British empire, to cultivate, by all reasonable means in our power, friendly relations with the people of the United States. When the President of the United States made overtures to us—because I beg the hon. gentleman to understand that the overtures did not come from us in any shape or form, they came from the United States—it would have been churlish in the extreme to refuse to meet him, and to refuse to meet him half way. I do not think anybody, high or low, will be one fraction the poorer for the concessions that are made the United States, and the general consuming people will, pro tanto, be a little better off. It is impossible to pursue this matter further, but if the hon. gentleman will examine the matter in detail—and there is nobody better able than himself from his long experience in customs to do so—he will see that, on an average duty varying from 30 to 35 per cent, in a small number of cases comparatively speaking, we have made a reduction of 2½ per cent and no more. In doing that, we have avoided injury to several interests which it was our desire, and his desire, not to expose to serious injury. I think, on the whole, when he comes to reflect on the matter calmly, he will be disposed to agree with me, that we would be very ill advised to squabble with the United States over perfumery, or prunes or peanuts.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill passed through its final stages.

THE SUPPLY BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (No. 235) An Act