

do not think it necessary to trespass on the patience of the House, by reading over the whole of them. I think it therefore better to postpone the consideration of those minute details until another occasion; but I may now state that the total number of articles that will be absolutely swept away from the tariff, will be no less than 430. These will include the fibrous materials, such as silk, hemp, and flax, which now pay a nominal duty; yarns of different kinds, with the exception of worsted yarns, which are subject to some peculiar regulations. We also propose to abolish the duty on furniture woods. There is a great cabinet-trade growing up in this country, (a laugh) which it is very desirable to promote; and for that purpose I propose abolishing the duty on all cabinet-wood. The amount of duty at present levied on cabinet-woods (renewed laughter) is very low, and we think that the same principle which has already been applied to sheep's wool, ought to be applied to those materials. We propose, also, to abolish the duties on animal and vegetable oils. These were included in the tariff. We propose likewise to remove the duty upon ores and minerals, with the exception of Copper ore, with respect to which an arrangement was made in 1842, and which has worked exceedingly well. The duties on iron and zinc, in the first stages of manufacture, will also be abolished; and we intend to remove the duties on all dye-stuffs, and on drugs universally, with the exception of some that are very noxious, and liable to be used as adulterations. There are some other articles with respect to which, partly from that and partly from other considerations, this total removal of duty will not take place. I do not propose materially to interfere with the general principles which we have applied to the timber duties. With regard to the great article of foreign timber, I think it will be seen that there has been recently a large increase in the import of Baltic timber. That import is increasing; and although as yet the measure lately passed has not had a fair opportunity of showing its results, I have a very confident hope that eventually my estimate of the loss will not be increased. The amount received for timber duties during the course of last year did not fall much short of £950,000. But there is one particular article, standing on very special grounds, in respect to which, when speaking of timber duties, we think an exception ought to be made: I allude to the article of staves (cheers). We have given the most deliberate consideration to this subject; we have read the various memorials which have been presented to us on behalf of the coopers of this country (cheers,) and we do think that they have made out a case of peculiar hardship, which entitles them to an exemption from a duty on an article which is, in point of fact, a raw material in their work. (Hear, hear!) The cooperage trade has been gradually declining in this country. Even in our own possessions the export of staves, and the articles that are made from them, are exposed to a formidable competition on the part of the United States. The United States are now supplying our West India colonies with this important article of trade. The trade of the cooper, again, in consequence of the failure in our fisheries, has been materially injured. The amount of duty levied on staves this year for the purpose of manufacture, is not less than 30 per cent. on the value of the raw material, as it may properly be termed. We have considered whether it would be possible to adopt any mode of relief, and at the same time retain the revenue duty; but it appeared to us that this plan must give rise to such a system of fraud, and that it would afford such opportunities for evasion, that we thought it better on the whole to class the article of staves with the articles of raw material, and to permit a free and unrestricted import of staves for the use of the coopers. (Hear, hear!) Of course it would be necessary that we should limit the length of the staves, so that they may not be applied to other purposes; but without very minute and vexatious regulations it would be impossible to prevent the importation of staves altogether which may be used for other purposes. Upon the whole, therefore, we will endeavour to submit to that evasion of our intention, rather than establish minute regulations for the purpose of preventing it. I do hope that the removal of this duty will restore the prosperity of a trade which finds employment for some of the most ingenious and respectable artisans in this country (Hear, hear!); and that the House will consider that we are perfectly justified in taking this one article out of the general category of the timber duties.

**VISCOUNT HOWICK.**—What is the amount of duty?

**SIR R. PEEL.**—About £33,000. We diminish the temptation to use staves for the ordinary purposes of furniture, by making a simultaneous reduction in all cabinet and furniture timber.

**MR. LABOUCHERE** inquired what would be the amount of the estimated sacrifice on all those articles?

**SIR ROBERT PEEL.**—I think the loss of revenue by the remission of the duties on all