

committee of the house ought to be appointed to prepare a draft of a bill to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage within the United States." The motion was adopted, and, after some discussion, duties were imposed upon a variety of articles—among them were Jamaica spirits, wines, sugars, coffee, beer, candles, cheese, shoes, unwrought steel, &c. "This article," says the reporter, "caused a long and interesting debate; it being contended on the one hand, proper to *encourage the growing manufacture of that article*; and opposed, on the other, as a tax on agriculture and all mechanic arts, in which steel tools, &c. were necessary."

"Mr. Gillman, from New-Hampshire, moved to have the article of hemp struck out of the enumeration."

"Mr. Hartley observed, that there appeared to him an inconsistency in the proceedings on the business. The committee had just resolved, that a duty should be laid on cables and cordage, and it was now proposed to tax the principal material of that manufacture. If the object was to *protect the manufactures of the country*, it was absurd to discourage the importation of raw materials, essential to those manufactures. It was, indeed, of importance to *encourage American productions*: but was it of higher importance than ship building? It was the policy of all manufacturing countries, to encourage the importation of the raw material. To lay a duty on hemp would be giving a fatal blow to the manufacture of cordage."

Mr. Moore, from Virginia, "conceived it not only the interest of the State he represented, but of every part of America, to *encourage the raising of hemp*."

"Mr. Heister observed, that the hemp of this season was already sown, so that the farmer would not profit by any *encouragement this year*. He did not, therefore, wish to render the duty heavy at present. It might be proper, in a year or two, to increase it."

"Mr. White opposed the motion for striking out the article, and was rather for filling it up with a larger sum. He moved that the blank be filled up with seventeen cents."

"Mr. Lawrence imagined, that the article of hemp was not raised at present, in sufficient quantities, to warrant any extraordinary duties, which might in the end *operate as a prohibition*. If the duty on hemp was higher than on cordage, it would be the interest of the merchant to import the latter, to the *discouragement of the manufacture here*."