

\$63,000 from Belgium and \$45,000 from Czechoslovakia.

Under item 320 our imports amounted to \$608,000 of which \$124,000 came from the United Kingdom, \$488,000 from the United States and \$46,000 from other countries.

Under item 321 our imports totalled \$173,000 of which \$69,000 came from the United Kingdom, \$77,000 from the United States and \$27,000 from other countries.

Under item 322 our imports totalled \$271,000, of which \$128,000 came from the United Kingdom, \$55,000 from the United States and \$73,000 from Belgium.

Mr. POWER: I do not want to be sarcastic, but will the minister tell us whether there were heavy importations of glass somewhere around September or October, 1930?

Mr. RHODES: I will secure the information for my hon. friend. I may assure him I have no information of any special imports at that time. My hon. friend may be quite right in his assumption.

Mr. POWER: I do not know.

Mr. EULER: Are we at liberty to discuss any of these items, particulars of which have been given by the minister?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hanson, York-Sunbury): I could not refuse the hon member anything.

Mr. RHODES: Perhaps it would facilitate the work of the committee if we discussed them all together, if that is agreeable to the committee. It is rather difficult to deal with them separately.

Mr. EULER: At the moment I desire to discuss just one item, namely, 320, plate glass, not bevelled, in sheets or panes not exceeding seven square feet each. When one looks at the rates that obtained before, namely, British preferential tariff, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and 10 per cent from all other countries, and compares them with the proposed tariff rates, namely, free under the British preferential tariff and 25 per cent from all other countries, because the intermediate and general rates are the same, one would think this is perhaps an outstanding effort to transfer business from foreign countries to Great Britain. I have no particular quarrel with that at the moment, but I should like to give to the committee information that I have received, which points to the conclusion that this change in the tariff is going to have exactly the opposite effect of that desired or intended. One would think from this, since this kind of glass is placed on the free list in Great Britain, the cost to the

[Mr. Rhodes.]

Canadian consumer should be less if anything, and also that the business should go to the British producer of this kind of plate glass. That would, I think, ordinarily be true, but under the circumstances of which I have knowledge, and perhaps the minister has also, it does not appear to me it is going to work out just in that way. I am told by glass importers in this country, men whose word I have no reason whatever to doubt, that practically all of this kind of glass which comes into Canada, comes from four countries: Great Britain, Belgium, France and the United States, the importations from the United States, according to the figures given by the minister, being by far the greater. The glass manufacturers of those four countries are in a combine, what is usually known as a cartel. It was understood pretty well that the business went largely to the British and Belgian manufacturers and also to those of the United States. This importer of glass states that this is almost surely going to be the result, that the foreign manufacturers are now going to be absolutely shut out, but the United States manufacturer or the Belgian manufacturer, being a member of the same cartel of which the British manufacturer is a member, is not going to yield the advantage which he has under the provisions of that cartel, and the consequence will be that the British manufacturer must yield to them. The final result will be that the British manufacturer, who has a preference under this agreement will increase the price of the glass he sells to Canada. That seems a rather anomalous condition, that while the duty on glass coming from Great Britain is being reduced from $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and made free as against a 25 per cent handicap on foreign countries, in order to enable the Belgian and the United States manufacturer to compete in the Canadian market with the British manufacturer, as he has a right to do under their cartel arrangements, the British manufacturer, not because he wants to, but because of his obligations under the cartel, will have to increase the price of glass to the Canadian consumer in order that the foreigner may get his share of the business. That is the way the matter has been put to me. As confirmation of it, I am informed that the British producer of glass was not at all in favour of this arrangement. Perhaps the minister can say with regard to that. It may be that those who made the arrangements had not the fullest information in regard to the situation. Further, here is a most peculiar situ-