

Customs Tariff

economical to import the offal for fox feeding than to pay the transportation costs which would be inevitable on shipments of an article of low value from central Canada to the maritime provinces.

Mr. BENNETT: The special excise tax applies?

Mr. DUNNING: There are men in this chamber who know the industry better than I do. I am trying to make myself acquainted with the important factors in the constituency which, as my right hon. friend has pointed out, has done me the honour of returning me to this house. I do not pretend to know all about fox farming, but from such study as I have made of it I am convinced that this is a concession which will be of considerable value to an industry which is growing in importance, and which will not be harmed elsewhere.

Mr. BENNETT: Will this feed pay special excise tax?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, it is subject to special excise tax.

Mr. STEVENS: Has the minister considered the possible effect upon Australian and New Zealand treaties? We gave both those countries some consideration in the free importation of frozen rabbits for fox feeding purposes. While that may sound more or less trivial the fact is that one of our great difficulties in making agreements with both countries was that of finding some concessions which could reasonably be made to them. This was considered a real concession.

Mr. DUNNING: It has not proven to be of any importance, whatsoever.

Mr. STEVENS: It has not?

Mr. DUNNING: No, it is negative.

Mr. STEVENS: As a matter of good faith, have they been notified?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, they know about it.

Mr. CAHAN: Is it true that the maritime provinces cannot produce at reasonable cost the food required to feed the fur-bearing animals they are raising? That seems an astounding statement to make. I should like to know what proportion of this food comes from domestic production in the three maritime provinces, and what proportion is im-

[Mr. Dunning.]

ported. I have been in almost every school section of the maritime provinces, and I cannot understand why they cannot produce this food economically so as to feed the foxes they are raising.

Mr. DUNNING: It is not that they cannot produce it, but rather that in the nature of things the proper food is an offal by-product of another operation. It is a product of an abattoir. This is one of the uses for particular types of offal which are created in quantities capable of commercial development only in large scale abattoir operations. I think all hon. members who are familiar with the matter will confirm what I say in that regard. As is well known, large scale abattoir operations are not a feature of the commercial or industrial life of the maritime provinces. I assure the hon. member that to-day sufficient of these commodities is not available, and for that reason it is imported into the maritime provinces.

Mr. CAHAN: Does the minister say that all of it is imported?

Mr. DUNNING: The great bulk of it.

Amendment agreed to.

Item as amended agreed to.

Customs tariff—9(d). Baby chicks, n.o.p., each: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, 4 cents; general tariff, 5 cents.

Mr. BENNETT: This is an item in which there is a raising of the tariff, I suppose.

Mr. DUNNING: In this instance we have a specific duty instead of an ad valorem duty. It is difficult to apply a percentage of the value of baby chicks.

Mr. BARBER: What was the total protection last year?

Mr. DUNNING: There was last year a special valuation of thirty cents.

Mr. BENNETT: That was under section 43.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, under section 43. In some years importations of baby chicks have reached large proportions. In 1930, 924,000 were imported, to the value of \$116,000, and then they were made subject to a valuation for duty purposes amounting to thirty cents per chick. This involved payment of a heavy dumping duty and a decline in imports was noticeable. In 1931, 770,000 chicks