

Customs Tariff

defence of the woollen industry in the district of South Waterloo. However, I would agree with the ruling of the chair, and withhold my speech until a later occasion when I will be able to deal with the subject matter in a more extended way.

Mr. Benidickson: Would the Minister of Finance indicate what representations he has received from Great Britain since he announced in his budget speech that he had this present intention? We have certainly read some interesting comments in newspapers of importance in Britain, and they did not seem to think that it was a very promising inauguration or preparation for the conference on trade that is about to take place in Montreal.

Such important journals over there as the *Financial Times*, the *Yorkshire Post*, the *Economist* and others have commented upon the minister's intentions very bitterly, inasmuch as an opportunity is obviously being cut off for consultation on the lines of improving trade between one country and the other.

I do not wish to reiterate some of the things which are already on record in *Hansard*, but I think the hon. member for Mount Royal during the budget debate contributed some very important quotations from some of the most influential journals of the United Kingdom, and it is obvious that they are not taking this in good spirit. I wonder if the minister would indicate just what representations the government has received, and his view as to the extent to which it is likely to contribute to good feeling and effective bargaining at the commonwealth conference we are to have in Canada next month. This is likely to reduce the effectiveness of good feeling and bargaining at the conference that we are to have soon, in fact next month.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I shall be very brief because I hope the committee will allow the remainder of these resolutions to pass tonight in order that we may have the bill introduced tonight and circulated.

There is no need, I think, to resume the debate that we had on this subject during the course of the budget debate. There is nothing new. If the effect of the increase is as slight as my hon. friend has indicated, then it is true to precisely the same degree that any complaints that have been made in any newspaper in the United Kingdom must correspondingly have very slight grounds to justify them.

Mr. Benidickson: Their language does not suggest that.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): With respect to discussion between countries, I know my hon. friend does not expect these to be disclosed. These are communications between governments. We do not expect this slight increase to impede in any way the negotiations that will be taking place at the commonwealth trade and economic conference. The position on both sides of the water is clearly understood and I think it is realized that this is but an extremely modest increase that the tariff board has recommended.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, I want to say a few words about this and I am afraid that what I have to say will take more than the five minutes that are left.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Could I make a suggestion to my hon. friend? Would the committee be willing to sit past ten o'clock, if necessary, so that my hon. friend could complete his remarks and have the bill introduced tonight, or would my friend be willing to make his remarks on the bill, either on second reading or on the appropriate clause of the bill when we have it introduced? He would have the same freedom on that clause in the bill.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Chairman, the difficulty about that is that we are opposed to this particular resolution and since we take that position we wish to establish the reason why we are opposed to it, and I do not think that can be done in the five minutes that are left tonight. This I think is the place to do it, Mr. Chairman, because we have already been informed this session that if we have any general observations to make we should make them on the resolution. This I would like to do at this stage, but I certainly cannot do it in five minutes. However, I do want to indicate in the time that is available some of the reasons why we will not be able to support this particular resolution.

The minister has said that it is a very modest, very small increase. If it is a small increase, it is not going to do very much to help the Canadian woollen industry. The minister might also have said that this increase applies only to British imports and has no effect on the most-favoured-nation clause and therefore on other imports. As it happens, and as the minister knows, the British have not even been holding their share of this market; whereas imports from other countries, more particularly from Italy, have been increasing.

We know that the minister and the government are negotiating to maintain the margin between the British preferential rate and the M.F.N. rate and, as he has already indicated to us this afternoon in connection