

Mr. BOTHWELL: Is it not a fact that customs officers are making these computations every day at the different ports in Canada.

Mr. RHODES: Yes, on instructions from the Department of National Revenue dealing with the variable factors of which I have spoken.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I wonder how the customs officials work out these duties at the various ports of entry. Do they take as long as this to do it?

Mr. RHODES: My hon. friend does not seem to realize that in this matter the Department of Finance is not the administrative department; it comes under the Department of National Revenue. We have not the information in our department; it must be obtained from the Department of National Revenue in the manner I have indicated.

Mr. YOUNG: Will the minister not admit that we as members of this committee who are asked to pass these items are entitled in every case to know exactly what we are doing and what duties we are imposing?

Mr. RHODES: Having heard the arguments of my hon. friend I would say that he is in dire need of a good deal of information, and it will be my endeavour to satisfy his curiosity so far as that may be possible.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: One point was raised by the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario which I think should be dealt with at once. The hon. member asked why someone on this side did not move to reduce or strike out one or other of the different items. May I say that if we refrain from such a course it is because we do not want to make a mere pretence of doing something which we know cannot be done in the circumstances. The Prime Minister has made it perfectly clear that this agreement is to go through exactly as it has been framed, and for us to move to reduce any item would be to simply pretend we were doing something which we all know will not be done. We desire to make it perfectly clear, however, what is the significance of these increases in duty.

Mr. RHODES: I take no exception whatever to the statement just made by my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition. He has accurately stated the position, and I have nothing to add.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Rhodes.]

Customs tariff—381a. Sheets of iron or steel, hot or cold rolled, with silicon content of .075 per cent or more, when imported by manufacturers of electrical apparatus, for use in the manufacture of electrical apparatus in their own factories: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; general tariff, $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Are we taking only the one item now? We might take the next three items together.

Mr. RHODES: In the schedule to the bill my right hon. friend will see that there is only the one item.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is hoop steel, hot or cold rolled, is it not?

The CHAIRMAN: No, we are dealing with item ex 381a.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): With reference to this item I see an increase from $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 20 per cent in the intermediate and general tariffs, while the British preference remains the same. I also observe that the total importations last year amounted to about \$2,225,000, and that of this total only about \$340,000 came from Great Britain. Here we have a tariff increase of about 60 per cent which will cost the Canadian consumer about \$140,000 more on this one item alone.

Mr. RHODES: No, my hon. friend is entirely in error. If he will look at item 386p in the votes and proceedings he will observe that there is no change in the duty under either the intermediate or the general tariff. We have reduced the British preference from $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to free.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think we are talking about different items.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—382a. Hoop steel, hot or cold rolled, plain or coated, .064 inch or less in thickness, not more than 3 inches in width, when imported by manufacturers of barrels or kegs or by manufacturers of flat hoops for barrels and kegs, for use exclusively in their own factories: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; general tariff, $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr. RHODES: This is a new item entirely. We have not disturbed the duty under either the intermediate or general tariffs; we have simply removed the present preference rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and placed these goods on the free list.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We must be on the wrong item.

Mr. STEVENS: Look at item 386q.