

house with what I am inclined to term an harangue—I hope he will not take exception to the word—or a tirade or something of the kind. He touched upon everything except the particular matter on which I was seeking information. If volubility and sound were the equivalent of argument, my right hon. friend might have impressed the committee. But after listening to all that he said, I confess that it seemed to me as applicable to any other section of the bill as the one under discussion or in fact to any other bill dealing with tariffs or prices or labour as it was to the particular section to which I referred.

May I again put the question to my right hon. friend, and I do so simply because I should like to have an understanding between us if that is at all possible. Would not the whole purpose served by the section, with all its subsections, be fully covered by a simple sentence to this effect:

In respect of goods produced in or imported into Canada, the board shall have, at the request of the minister, power to make inquiry into any matter upon which the minister desires information.

My right hon. friend said that the late Lord Thring would not have been satisfied with certain forms of drafting because they were not sufficiently particularized. May I point out that in the sentence I have just read there is a considerable amount of particularization. It particularizes with respect to goods as regards their being produced in or imported into Canada, and it particularizes further in indicating the right of the minister to get on inquiry any information which he wishes. I believe the late Lord Thring would have been thoroughly satisfied with a clause to that effect and would have been inclined to agree that it is better drafting even than the clause as my right hon. friend has had it drawn. Does not my right hon. friend think the clause I have suggested is sufficient?

Let me point out wherein I think the shorter and more direct statement is the preferable one. Note first that it does not withdraw from this court in the matter of inquiry anything in the way of latitude; indeed, it says that the minister may have an inquiry into any matter at all on which he wishes information with respect to these particular subjects. That is as broad as desire itself could possibly be. It has this advantage, that it does not deceive anyone with respect to what this court may be expected to do. No one will expect the court to inquire into everything. If my right hon. friend will read over what he said this afternoon regarding

the number of matters that will need to be inquired into on behalf of labour, on behalf of capital, on behalf of manufacturers, on behalf of invested capital, on behalf of the consumers, he will see that if he had a hundred courts working a hundred years they could not possibly conduct full inquiries into one hundred of the items of the tariff which he is bringing before us at the present time in the detailed manner which he indicated might become necessary in regard to some of these things. When he particularizes here in the manner in which he does, he actually, though possibly not intentionally, does deceive the public as to just what the court can do. He points out, for example, that they may inquire into the cost of raw materials up to the time that they are used, and costs of transportation, no matter where such materials may come from. In regard to production they may go into the question of increases or decreases in the rates of duty necessary to equalize differences in cost of production. In respect of labour they may go into the question of cost of living and labour cost and into matters concerning the efficiency and the health of employees. And when he comes to prices, producers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and other distributors are all to be looked after. Then finally after all conditions and factors that affect costs and prices have been inquired into the consumer is to be safeguarded from exploitation in a multitude of ways. Each of these classes will be told that they are being well looked after by the court, once all these duties are assigned to it, and once these duties are to be found in a statute. I submit that it would be better, instead of raising the hopes of these classes only to have them dashed to bits, for the minister simply to have the court investigate anything in regard to which he wishes to have information. That would be straightforward, it would cover all these things, but it would not create that element of suspicion and leave that measure of disappointment which I am afraid will be the result of the legislation should it pass in its present form. May I ask my right hon. friend again: would not everything he has here, particularized as it is, be covered by one clause to the effect that in respect of goods produced in or imported into Canada the board shall have, at the request of the minister, power to make inquiry into any matter upon which the minister desires information?

Mr. BENNETT: The suggestion is not acceptable. The right hon. gentleman may say that it covers everything, but it is not