

of this country shall get as large a supply of furniture as is available to them, of the best quality, and for the least expenditure of the products of their labour.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

The committee resumed at three o'clock.

Mr. WALSH: I had intended to reply to some of the remarks made on this item but I know that the chief purpose to-day is to provide ways and means of bringing the session to a close. I will therefore reserve what I have to say for some other occasion when the house will more readily appreciate my views on this subject.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): I will not take more than a minute or two. It has been interesting to listen to hon. members from the west in this miniature filibuster, which I understand is the final kick from a Liberal caucus. There are a number of items which I think they could, to better their purpose, have brought to the attention of their front benchers. A discussion of some of those subjects would have been of more avail than the remarks that have been made on this particular item. The farmers of the west are not so greatly interested in the duty on or the price of furniture at the present time because not many of them can afford to replace their old bedsteads, washstands and so on. But they are very much concerned about such an important item as sugar, for example.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member must confine his remarks to the item before the committee.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): In the last day or two considerable latitude has been allowed in the discussion of certain items. I will be brief, and if I am out of order I suppose I cannot say anything further; but this is one particular item that is a considerable burden to the consumers.

The CHAIRMAN: I must insist that the hon. gentleman confine his remarks to the item under discussion.

Mr. BENNETT: I protest against this discrimination. It matters not whether this is the last hour of the last day of the session, I protest. An hon. member on the other side was permitted to traverse the whole subject of free trade and everything else, and now, when an hon. member on this side gets up to make a few observations upon another item by way of comparison with the item which is

before the committee, he is told that he is out of order. I propose to assert the rights of hon. members, and if a privilege is extended to one it must be accorded others. It does not rest with the chairman to treat hon. members with such discrimination.

The CHAIRMAN: I may say to the leader of the opposition that this morning I called the hon. member for Melfort to order. I do not think the right hon. gentleman was in his place—

Mr. BENNETT: I came in afterwards.

The CHAIRMAN:—when I gave my ruling.

Mr. BENNETT: I heard the hon. member for Melfort. I do not know what happened before I came in, but I know what happened afterwards.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): I must protest against that. On a question of privilege—

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): With reference to this furniture item, I would say that the efforts—

Mr. BENNETT: Say it on the bill.

Mr. TUSTIN: Coming from a centre where the oldest furniture factory in the country is situated, I think I should bring certain facts to the attention of the committee. During this discussion we have heard a good deal about the forgotten man, the consumer, and the percentage of furniture that is imported into Canada. In 1929 we imported from the United States over \$4,000,000 worth of furniture, approximately twenty-five per cent of what was sold in Canada during that year. In 1930 the tariff was increased and immediately importations began to decline, so that by the end of 1934 there was only \$475,000 worth of furniture imported. There is no doubt that this reduction in furniture imports resulted in a great gain to the workmen in Canadian factories. In 1930 the tariff was raised to the highest level in the history of the country and notwithstanding that, the prices of furniture were reduced, and the reduction continued until 1935, when furniture was sold at forty-five per cent below the price that obtained when the tariff was at a lower rate. What do we find in 1936? In 1936 the present government reduced the tariff on furniture from forty-five per cent to twenty-seven per cent and immediately the prices of furniture began to increase, and to-day furniture dealers are telling their customers that the increase is likely to continue. In my opinion the tariff board has well considered this item.