

Customs tariff—381. Sheets of iron or steel, hot or cold rolled: (a) .080 inch or less in thickness, n.o.p.: British preferential tariff, 7½ per cent; intermediate tariff, 20 per cent; general tariff, 20 per cent.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What were the total importations?

Mr. RHODES: Last year the imports totalled \$2,226,000, of which \$340,000 came from the United Kingdom, \$1,856,000 from the United States and \$30,000 from Belgium.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This helps to illustrate the really protective intent of this particular change. The old rate was 7½ per cent, 12½ per cent and 12½ per cent, while the new rates are 7½ per cent, 20 per cent and 20 per cent. The minister just told us that the importations last year amounted to \$2,226,000, of which \$340,000 came from Great Britain. The rate remains the same on imports under the British preference, but is increased from 12½ per cent to 20 per cent under the general and intermediate tariffs. As the general and intermediate rates carry the bulk of the imports, and the tariff is unchanged under the British preference, the item constitutes an increase under the general and intermediate tariffs of 60 per cent. The added cost to the Canadian consumers, if the imports remained the same, would be \$140,000, and to this must be added whatever extra charges may be made by the Canadian manufacturers who will now enjoy an increase of 60 per cent in their protection. This is a drastic increase made under the pretence of aiding Great Britain.

Mr. RHODES: My right hon. friend is quite right from his point of view, but if the goods come from Great Britain they pay precisely the same duty they would have paid under the old tariff.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: But the consumers pay a good deal more.

Mr. RHODES: Not necessarily; that remains to be seen. Our views differ in that respect and time alone will tell, as my hon. friend from West Middlesex said a few moments ago.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should say to my hon. friend that this has been done on the part of the government with full knowledge that the dumping duties and the valuations, in the manner in which the tariff is administered at the present time, will be sufficient to shut out these imports from Great Britain.

Mr. RHODES: I must differ with my right hon. friend there. The arrangement is made with the agreement of our British friends, who are satisfied that they can do business under it.

Mr. YOUNG: Does the minister mean to say that this exchange dumping duty will not be collected? There is no use saying they will not have to pay duty if they come from Great Britain, so long as that duty is imposed.

Mr. RHODES: I did not say anything of the kind, as my hon. friend knows full well.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. YOUNG: Mr. Chairman, this afternoon I made a request of the minister that he have his officers figure out an exact rate which would apply on item 354a, which covers household aluminum ware. I understood him to say that he would have this done during the dinner recess, and I wonder if he can give the committee the figures.

Mr. RHODES: I did not say I would have it done during the dinner recess; I said I would have it done by the officers of the Department of National Revenue before we came out of committee on this bill. It was too late to get the officers to-night, and I propose to have this information available at the next sitting of the committee.

Mr. YOUNG: I want to protest against this whole proceeding. There is no reason why this matter could not be figured out in ten minutes by the officers of the department. We are asked by the government to put into effect a tariff, and when we ask what that tariff is, they cannot tell us.

Mr. STEVENS: No.

Mr. YOUNG: Yes. I asked what would be the actual applied rates on certain goods coming in from Great Britain included in this tariff. The Minister of National Revenue cannot figure it out, the Minister of Finance cannot figure it out and the Minister of Trade and Commerce cannot figure it out. I asked that it be figured out by the officers of the department, and I am now told that they could not do it during the dinner recess. I have tried to do it myself, but the ministers tell me I am wrong. How do they know that I am wrong? I think we have a right to this