

for instability in the business of importation into this country. I should like to ask the honourable gentleman in charge of this Bill if he can assure this House and the country that the importers, who constitute a substantial body, will have a guarantee that the decision when given by this final arbiter, who seems to be a Mussolini in tariff matters, will be final? When an importer goes to a port of entry and makes the three copies of his entry, and pays the duty, and takes the goods and sells them to the consumer at a price based on his cost price plus duty, freight and insurance, can he be certain that two or three, or perhaps six months later, he will not be asked by the Customs Department at Ottawa to make a post entry? That is something that happened under previous Governments, and under the present Government it is going to happen ten times as often as before. I ask this not only on behalf of my own firm, but on behalf of others.

I see many difficulties ahead, under the proposed system. This tariff muddle is the biggest bungle ever made by any Government in Canada. The tariff is not well balanced. Already even the manufacturers are quarrelling among themselves because they did not understand that raw materials were to bear such a high duty. I know that the Prime Minister has said that the consuming public will be protected. I know also that the director of a certain manufacturing concern in the Province of Quebec, when asked, "Are you or are you not going to take advantage of this added protection?" said, "Certainly we are." When he was asked if he had not seen the statement of the Prime Minister, he said, "Certainly. But what are we in business for?" That is an instance that can be multiplied by two or three hundred.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: What is the name of that firm?

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR: I will give the honourable gentleman the name of the firm.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: Let us have it.

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR: I do not think it would be well to give it here, but I will give it to my honourable friend.

The honourable gentleman from Bedford (Hon. Mr. Pope) has spoken of the power of the President of the United States in tariff matters. It is true that he has the great power that was attributed to him by the honourable gentleman; but the Governor in Council has a similar power, even though it is said that it will not be exercised except in

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR.

extraordinary circumstances. I ask honourable gentlemen if the President of the United States ever exercised his power overnight. In the United States there is a Board which reports to the President before he takes action, and in the course of ordinary procedure he cannot very well decide intelligently on matters of that kind without giving them some consideration. This takes time. I have a particular case in mind. In the Province of Prince Edward Island the seed potato industry is an important one. Some question was raised about so many potatoes going from Canada into the United States, much to the detriment of the farmers there. What did President Hoover do? He sent men to Prince Edward Island, where they spent weeks among the farmers, securing information as to the cost of labour, fertilizer, and so on, in order to ascertain the cost of our potatoes bagged and shipped to their own country. When they had done that they made their report to President Hoover, and he acted upon it. But that took months. The result of that action is embodied in the Hawley-Smoot tariff, from the effects of which we are suffering.

President Hoover does not decide overnight, but we are going to have a system whereby one man can fix the value of the goods and say what duty is to be imposed. An importer who brings in goods upon which a certain valuation is placed may upon ordering again find that in the meantime this gentleman has changed his idea of values. I could multiply such instances that business men will encounter every day of the year.

Canada is not a self-contained country. Why should not our consumers have the benefit of goods from European and other countries? We are not hurting Canadian manufacturers. The whole aim of this tariff is simply to prohibit importation of all kinds.

That brings up the important question of where this country is going to get revenue, or, in the alternative, of how much the people of this country are going to have to pay by reason of increased taxation. We know that in the case of a few items the Government will get an increased revenue by means of the higher tariff, but there is no doubt that the aggregate result will be a lessened revenue. I think that must be admitted. Because of the decline in foreign trade we already have a declining revenue. I think this House and this country would be justified in asking the intention of the Government in regard to revenue. Where is the revenue to come from to provide for the big expenditures that are