

whether the minister or the department do not now wish to change this item, or whether they have looked into it thoroughly, because as one who in past years had a great deal to do with engineering plans I can plainly see that the admission without duty of engineering plans from the United States will have a deterring effect on the expansion of Canadian engineering in this regard. Has the minister had it looked into, or is he familiar with the subject?

Mr. ABBOTT: I must say I am not as familiar with the subject as the hon. member for Davenport. I have looked into it, particularly since the discussion took place in the house and since I received the letter from Mr. Wright, the secretary of the Engineering Institute of Canada, relating to the matter. The purpose of including plans of this kind on the free list is to lower the cost of production in Canada by lowering the cost of the construction of industrial plants and the installation of machinery. It was thoroughly investigated by the tariff branch, and it is felt desirable to do this. Should it develop that it is injurious to the engineering profession in Canada it will, of course, be reconsidered, but the feeling is that it should be tested out first. In view of the investigations to which I have referred, it is felt that it is desirable to put plans of this kind on the free list, and that it will not be injurious to the profession in Canada.

Mr. MacNICOL: The minister says that the tariff board or tariff commission investigated the application of this item. Did they have before them representatives of the institute mentioned by the minister? Did they send notice to such bodies that the item was to be discussed and, if so, were any replies received?

Mr. ABBOTT: It was not as the result of a public hearing, of course, and I do not know whether or not notices were sent out, but I am told that the question was thoroughly looked into.

Mr. MacNICOL: I shall not further oppose the item at the moment, but this is something in connection with which I have had a good deal of experience, having drawn a multitude of engineering plans in certain lines. Personally I cannot see anything but disaster to certain branches of engineering in Canada through the admission to this country of engineering plans for the construction of buildings. I appreciate what certain people may have in mind, that they would like to bring in plans for a factory building duplicating one in the United States, and that they would

[Mr MacNicol.]

like to bring in not only the construction plans but the engineering plans as well, but on the other hand I believe those plans should be drawn by Canadian engineers; and I say that for several reasons. Naturally in drawing their plans the United States engineers will specify certain lines of material, which in turn will be specified for the buildings being constructed in Canada. If contractors in Canada have to figure on United States material instead of Canadian material, and not only figure on it but use it in construction, as the minister can appreciate it will have a serious effect on several important firms in his own city of Montreal who make excellent engineering equipment. It is not necessary to mention them by name; they are splendid Canadian firms in the city of Montreal. If these United States engineering plans come in here specifying United States material it may have a severe effect on firms in the minister's own city. I suggest that if nothing can be done about the plans themselves, when specifications are brought in from the United States detailing American material, instructions should go out that Canadian material of equivalent manufacture and equivalent capacity be used instead. After all, the minister and I and others must think of these big cities, where there are many engineers and where they make much engineering equipment. In the minister's own city of Montreal there are many eminent engineers, and firms manufacturing excellent equipment. Would the minister care to comment on the use of Canadian material?

Mr. ABBOTT: I have taken careful note of what my hon. friend has said. He may rest assured that we shall watch the operation of this item very closely to see whether or not it has any injurious effect on the Canadian economy and the use of Canadian materials. If it has, he may be sure the item will be changed.

Mr. ISNOR: I should like to direct the minister's attention to item 703, dealing with baggage. Does this refer to the importation of luggage or baggage for resale?

Mr. ABBOTT: I am told that it does not relate to luggage brought in for resale, but only to travellers' luggage brought in under the \$100 limitation which now exists.

Mr. JAENICKE: In several items, as for example the first two, there does not appear to be any change; the present rates are the same as the rates proposed according to the schedule filed on June 27. I should like to know why they are included in this amendment.