

the case may have been presented; I am trying to present the case. Nor is there any necessity to speak of what might have been done under other circumstances. All we can discuss is what has been done, and I have presented the matter as I have seen it. I may observe that I never in my life saw the person concerned except once. The papers are under my hand, because I brought them to the chamber in case it was necessary to use them should any controversy arise. The matter is of importance as involving the whole source of supply, and I would say frankly to the minister that if, as a result of any action taken, it becomes necessary to pay the high duty to obtain galvanized sheets from the United States mills I shall consider that we have made a capital mistake, when we can secure the raw material under the terms I have mentioned so that Canadian fabricators can produce the finished article and maintain continuity of life in the industry in question.

I am not unmindful of the difficulties. There is of course a galvanizing plant at Hamilton which is well known, being a branch of an English house. I believe it is one of the largest plants in the country.

Mr. DUNNING: It is.

Mr. BENNETT: As far as I can remember it is probably the largest in Canada. But there are smaller plants. The one at Sarnia has three or four modern pots capable of doing as much galvanizing as two of the old pots; and as regards those at Montreal and other places, some of them are the very latest and others old. The question of improvements that have been made in galvanizing arises in this connection. In some of the plants in Canada the work can be done with greater celerity than was possible five or six years ago. Indeed, the improvements that have been brought about in galvanizing have been quite substantial, more especially in connection with galvanizing pipe. That question, however, does not arise at this particular moment. We are now dealing with the matter of sheets, and if as a result of the discussion the minister will continue his inquiries with as much zeal as possible under the circumstances, it will be appreciated by all those who are affected—and every consumer of galvanized sheets has a vital and direct interest in this transaction.

Mr. DUNNING: Before allowing the matter to pass I should say that I have positive knowledge of only one concern that is adversely affected to the extent portrayed. Any action would involve a specific length of time; my right hon. friend sees that.

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly.

Mr. DUNNING: When I spoke of all the facts I had in mind that feature of it. The fabricators in Canada indicate what their capacity is, and we do know what our imports from Great Britain were last year. We do not yet know, however, to what extent these imports of last year will be diminished by the circumstances now prevailing and which are being looked into. But this much is clear. Some of the largest fabricators are still receiving their supplies from English sources.

Mr. BENNETT: My information is that they have not received any lately.

Mr. DUNNING: I know of only one plant that is adversely affected by reason of not having made forward orders upon its English connections. From the point of view of my right hon. friend that is important because that particular fabricator supplied the largest distributor in western Canada; and the largest distributor in western Canada and the plant at Sarnia to which reference has been made are, of course, very much concerned. I can only assure my right hon. friend that the matter will not be lost sight of, and action can be taken very quickly so far as this government is concerned. But we want to be sure, when submitting a request to the British government on a matter of such importance, that we present all the facts in the best possible manner so that no question can afterwards be raised.

Mr. BENNETT: The minister realizes that, so far as the United States is concerned, the present tariff means a prohibition against these people.

Mr. DUNNING: In order to make any entry from the United States effective, the dumping provisions also would have to be removed.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, but they would not apply. The minister will find that they do not apply under present price conditions. But leaving that aside, the real issue is this, that they cannot maintain their pots at all if in order to secure their raw material they have to pay the present tariff, plus three per cent excise tax and eight per cent sales tax on these goods. The hon. gentleman is quite right in saying that the distributor in western Canada has had a contract for his supply of materials.

Mr. DUNNING: And the supplier cannot fill it.

Mr. BENNETT: Exactly.

Mr. DUNNING: Because the supplier did not protect himself.