

position to claim the bounty. In this case also we propose a bounty beginning at one and one-half cents per pound on the hemp and diminishing from year to year, until at the end of the eight years the bounty is extinguished.

By that time binder twine and other products made from Canadian hemp should be ready for the market.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: What are they going to do with the hemp?

Hon. Mr. WATSON: It is for the purpose of making binder twine.

In reply to the question whether hemp can be successfully grown in the West, I may say for the information of the House that adjacent to Portage la Prairie there were 200 acres of hemp grown two years ago. It was a magnificent crop. The hemp grows to a height of 12 or 14 feet and produces quite a large tonnage per acre. There is only one question in regard to the feasibility of the scheme working out, and that is whether we have sufficient moisture in the fall to rot in on the ground.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: They rot it in brooks.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: They are considering the construction of tanks in which they can immerse the hemp and carry on the rotting process in that way. A company has been established in Winnipeg, and it has asked for this bounty. There is no question at all about a market.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: What about the quality? How does it compare with the sisal manila?

Hon. Mr. WATSON: I do not know.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: That is a very important consideration. The use of flax fibre for the making of binder twine has not been a success so far.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: This company is perfectly willing to take the risk, and we are taking no risk at all—only paying on the manufactured product.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: If the Government is going to adopt a policy of giving bounties, I would suggest that they look into the feasibility of giving a bounty to develop iron in Northern Ontario. Without any aid there have been developed in Northern Ontario perhaps the greatest gold mines in the world. Silver and nickel mining also has been carried on without a bounty. Iron, which we require in Canada perhaps more than any other metal, has been neglected. As every person is aware, practically all our iron ore comes from the United States; yet we have in Northern

Ontario millions of tons of undeveloped iron ore. If the Government is going into the business of giving bounties, I think they should seriously consider the advisability of fostering that industry.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Of course, my honourable friend is aware that a considerable bounty was paid on iron and steel for a number of years.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: Very little.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Millions of dollars were given in bounties by the Government. The bounty was paid on a sliding scale, and was gradually extinguished, and by it we created an industry in Canada.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: If the Government wants to assist the iron industry of Canada it can do so by establishing a research council for the purpose of inventing or discovering some process whereby our refractory iron ores can be treated economically. If our ores were like the American ores, not refractory, they would not require this special treatment. There is no question about the tremendous deposits that we have.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: The question before the House is one of considerable importance to Manitoba. I happen to know a little about the organization of this Company, and I have no hesitation in saying that the proposition is a good one and ought to be encouraged. I have met Mr. Coats, a man from the North of Ireland who is largely interested in the manufacture of linens. He is closely identified with this organization, and I hope to see this thing given a fair trial. If it is a success, it would be of great benefit to Manitoba and the Northwest; if it does not succeed it will not cost the country anything.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, Bill 215, an Act respecting the payment of Bounties on Certain Manufactures of Hemp, was read the third time and passed.

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of Bill 216, an Act to amend the Customs Tariff, 1907.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, one of the main features of this Bill is the increased preference of 10 per cent under the British Preferential Tariff on goods imported to sea or river ports of Canada which are already paying a duty in excess of 15 per cent.