

and the opportunity it gives for the products of the toilers of our country to find their market in the other country. Up to the present time for fifteen years there was no compensation possible so far as tariffs were concerned in that respect. The West Indies now give us one-fifth preference over foreign nations. Does my hon. friend think that is a very small thing? It is not looked on as a very small thing in the West Indian Islands, and it is not in itself a small thing. It will be absolutely Canada's own fault if under that preference she does not get the markets of the islands which are parties to the agreement.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): In what particular might I ask the hon. gentleman will it be the fault of Canada if she does not extend her trade? I wish to point this out to my hon. friend that perhaps in answering my question, he might answer this one. Nearly all the articles mentioned in schedule A are articles which are sold direct to the West Indies by British exporters, who have the same tariff concessions there as we would have; they have this further advantage that their shipping facilities are very much better than those existing between Canada and the West Indies. If Canada fails to extend her trade to any great extent in the West Indies, it will be rather due to the severe competition she will have with the British exporters who enter the market on the same terms as she does.

Mr. FOSTER: If my hon. friend has looked over the trade returns, as I have no doubt he has, he will see that the great competitor of Canada in the West Indian Islands is the United States. The competition takes place between their products and our products. It goes without saying that, if there is a fair preference of one-fifth, and I think that is a fair preference, it will be the fault of Canadian producers themselves if they do not in that competition make good their case in the West Indian Islands. So much for that side of the benefit. My hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) seemed to think this was increasing the price of articles of consumption in Canada. From what does my hon. friend draw that idea of his? If you look at schedule C, you will find three articles: cocoa beans, lime-juice and limes.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Are they free at present?

Mr. FOSTER: Cocoa beans are free; limes are free; and lime-juice in the raw and concentrated form is free.

Mr. PUGSLEY: They are all made dutiable under this arrangement?

Mr. FOSTER: They are all made dutiable under this arrangement. On nothing else is there any larger duty than at present

Mr. FOSTER (N. Toronto).

exists. Count what it amounts to. There are three articles; to what extent will they raise the cost of living to the people of Canada?

Mr. PUGSLEY: Cocoa is very largely used.

Mr. FOSTER: Cocoa is largely used; but it is a cheap article, and the amount of duty put on it, seventy-five cents per hundred pounds, is very small. You are face to face with people with whom you are trying to make a fair and generous arrangement. You come to some of the islands whose chief products are in these articles; and if these islands do not get some preference on these products they get practically no preference at all.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): The hon. gentleman is hardly correct in that statement. The island to which he refers is Trinidad, which island is the greatest producer of cocoa in the West Indies. But, according to the returns furnished the House by the hon. gentleman, the exports of sugar from that island alone amount to \$1,592,309 last year, and I think that that is in excess of the total export of cocoa. So that the hon. gentleman's statement is hardly correct.

Mr. FOSTER: The cocoa business in Trinidad is the largest individual business Trinidad has.

Mr. SINCLAIR: What are the total imports of cocoa into Canada?

Mr. FOSTER: Between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 pounds.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Valued at how much?

Mr. FOSTER: I have not the figures at hand at the moment, but I will give the hon. gentleman the information in Committee. Take the case of Trinidad and two other colonies, and unless we gave them some preference on the staple article of cocoa, it was very problematical whether they would have come into the arrangement. As hon. members will see if they read over the negotiations, Trinidad had positive instructions not to sign the agreement unless they could get some fair preference on this large staple of their produce. Sugar produced in Trinidad goes largely to England. The sugar industry in that colony is carried on by people in a large way of business, of whom there are comparatively few, while the cocoa industry is a more extended farmers' industry and takes in a far larger class of people. Consequently, that interest is a large and important interest in Trinidad. So, if you take limes, lime-juice and cocoa-beans, these are the only articles in which there has been any increase in the duty, and the duty is very light in respect to these.