

## Customs Tariff Amendment

Mr. BENNETT: The maintenance of tariffs, I should have said; the minister is quite right. I was going to read what he (Mr. Crerar) said. He put it this way:

I have never been able to see any virtue in the principle of protection.

Then he discussed a number of items: one of the agriculture items; steel and then binder twine, boots and shoes, and textiles. With respect to boots and shoes he said:

There is absolutely no need of a protective tariff to the extent of 30 per cent to keep American shoes out of Canada, but I am afraid that if the hon. member will search his sources of information a little more closely he will find that the facts do not substantiate entirely what he has stated.

Then he took the case of a suit of clothes, and proceeded finally to say:

In all reason and conscience is it necessary to have a protective duty of 30 per cent on textiles coming into this country in order that concerns like the Dominion Textile Company may make such profits as I have just mentioned? Let me ask again, do our manufacturers really require the protection they enjoy? I am satisfied that they do not in the case I have just cited. But we have further evidence.

And so on. That was when the hon. gentleman left the government of the day. He gave his reasons for so doing, and they are set out at length in Hansard.

Then there was a statement by the Prime Minister to the effect that we should return to the tariff as it was when his government went out of office in 1930. Remember that one of the restrictions on domestic trade in this country is the increased sales tax of 8 per cent; and remember also the attacks that were made when the 3 per cent excise tax was placed upon the statute books by the late government. I have taken a number of invoices in connection with items and applied to them the tariffs under the Dunning budget so-called of 1930, and under the present budget of 1937, with the 8 per cent sales tax and the 3 per cent excise tax, for the purpose of showing just what proportion of the invoice cost of those goods laid down in Canada from the United States was paid by the consumer in 1930 under the so-called Dunning budget and what is paid at the present time. I shall content myself, in view of the lateness of the session, with merely placing the list on the record in order that during the recess the hon. member for Huron North (Mr. Deachman), the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. McLean), and the hon. member for Moose Jaw [Mr. Crerar.]

(Mr. Ross) may have an opportunity of examining them.

Table showing percentage of laid-down cost of certain goods entering Canada from the United States because of customs and excise duties and sales tax.

Article	At present after Dunning budgets of 1930 and 1937	
	Per cent	Per cent
Artificial silk marquisette, piece goods. . . . .	36½	74½
Artificial silk fabrics. . . . .	36½	58
Artificial silk fabrics. . . . .	36½	64½
Artificial silk and cotton, drapery fabrics. . . . .	36½	98½
Artificial silk and cotton fabrics. . . . .	36½	86½
Artificial silk and cotton fabrics. . . . .	35½	76½
Artificial silk and cotton fabrics. . . . .	36½	68½
Artificial silk dresses. . . . .	39	62
Artificial silk dresses. . . . .	41½	63½
Artificial silk dresses. . . . .	41	65½
Artificial silk dresses. . . . .	41	59½
Artificial silk dresses. . . . .	39½	61½
Artificial silk dresses. . . . .	40½	58
Artificial silk dresses. . . . .	41½	52½

Mr. DUNNING: I must question my right hon. friend's figures.

Mr. BENNETT: They are taken from actual invoices.

Mr. DUNNING: Including what?

Mr. BENNETT: Including customs duties, excise tax and sales tax; I said that at the start. I have taken goods coming from the United States so that they may have the benefit of the United States agreement of last year.

Mr. DUNNING: There was a one per cent sales tax in 1930 when I brought down that budget.

Mr. BENNETT: It was reduced to that in the face of a deficit.

Mr. DUNNING: There was \$47,000,000 of a surplus.

Mr. BENNETT: There was a deficit in sight of nearly \$50,000,000. The minister should have known of that if he did not. I always thought he did know.

Mr. DUNNING: I am speaking of a surplus.

Mr. BENNETT: I am talking of what I know. I continue with the list: