

in Great Britain were to be under the control of Mr. Howard Ferguson, the Canadian high commissioner.

To sum up. First of all, the previous government thought that Canada was self-supporting, that imports were not necessary, that Canada could be let alone. This was regarded by all the other nations of the world as absurd, and the government of the day tried to bring about some interimperial trade, neglecting completely the foreign trade of Canada. This also was found to be a mistake, and then what was done? They tried to secure better trade with all the other nations, and the then Prime Minister went to the world conference in London, where he met the representatives of sixty-three or sixty-four other states. That conference was unsuccessful. The right hon. gentleman was said to have saved the conference, but it died a natural death two or three days afterwards. It was a great success—the success of high tariffs. He used high tariffs as a remedy for unemployment, and at the same time we saw unemployment increasing by leaps and bounds in proportion to the increase in the tariff.

But there is something else. In 1934 the right hon. gentleman who is now leader of the opposition sent a telegram to Mr. Litvinoff, the Russian minister, inviting him to speak at the League of Nations at Geneva. But he alone did not send this telegram; it was a joint telegram signed by himself, Mr. Batoloff, Mr. Manuel Rivas-Vicuna, and many others.

Previously the government had passed—on February 27, 1931—an order in council which it is desirable—

The CHAIRMAN: Order. I would call the hon. member's attention to the fact that we are on item 462a, which has to do with photographic cameras and equipment for use by professional photographers and commercial finishers in their own business. I would ask him to confine his remarks to the item under discussion.

Mr. POULIOT: That is true, Mr. Chairman; but the different tariffs under this item will all be free when this schedule becomes effective. I am not however discussing so much the equipment for use by professional photographers as I am the abolition of the various rates of duty. That is the point, and my remarks will be very brief—I shall be through in five minutes. I have discussed the importance of lower tariffs for the benefit of this country, whether in connection with this item or any other, though I take advantage of the present item to make these few remarks. Not only that; this particular item is a part of the

[Mr. Pouliot.]

whole customs tariff and one can try to show the effect of one part in relation to the whole.

On January 30, 1935, the following question was put to the government:

Did the Canadian delegation officially meet, in Geneva in September, 1934, Mr. Maxim Litvinoff, People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.?

The member for West Calgary (Mr. Bennett), then Prime Minister, answered, no. Another question was put:

If so, did the Canadian delegation make any agreements with the Russian delegation, and, if it did, what are these agreements, particularly with regard to exportation of wheat and lumber to Great Britain?

The answer was also, no, according to unrevised Hansard of January 30, 1935. Therefore, after the right hon. gentleman, with the others, had invited Mr. Litvinoff to Geneva, he did not discuss with him such important matters as the wheat and lumber exports of Russia to the other countries of the world, which seems most extraordinary.

To show you, sir, that the way in which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) now deals with the tariff is much more sensible than the way the late government did, I will quote from an order in council which was passed on Friday, February 27, 1931:

Whereas it is provided by section 2, chapter 3, of the 21 George V (second session)—“An act to amend the Customs Tariff”—that the governor in council may from time to time prohibit the importation into Canada of any goods exported directly or indirectly from any country not a contracting party to the Treaty of Versailles, and that any order prohibiting the importation into Canada of any goods from any such country shall be published in the next following issue of the Canada Gazette;

And whereas the Minister of National Revenue reports that it has been established to his satisfaction that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was not a contracting party to the Treaty of Versailles aforesaid;

And whereas the Minister of National Revenue further reports that, having regard to the documentary and other evidence that has been received by the various departments of the public service in Canada, it is in the public interest that the importation into Canada from the aforesaid Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of coal, wood pulp, pulpwood, lumber and timber of all kinds, asbestos and furs, should be prohibited; . . .

There is a conclusion in accordance with the foregoing. Well, it is pretty hard to accept the motive therein indicated. The fact that Russia was not one of the nations that signed the treaty of Versailles was not a reason for prohibiting the importation of Russian goods into Canada, because there were thirty-four other nations that did not sign that treaty. It was an insult and a defiance to them to say that Russian goods were forbidden entry into Canada because