

of the manufacturer. As I have stated, there has been a manufacturers' revision. On the other hand, what do we find in connection with those items which constitute the necessities of life? Let us consider item 532, which deals with clothing and wearing apparel made from woven fabrics. The rates shown under the column headed "Present Rates" are: British preferential tariff, 25 per cent; intermediate tariff, 30 per cent, and general tariff, 35 per cent. In addition under the British preferential tariff there is a duty of 3 cents per pound, under the intermediate tariff  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents and under the general tariff 4 cents. What has been the conference change? The British preferential tariff remains at 25 per cent; no change. The intermediate tariff is 30 per cent, and again there is no change. The general tariff is 35 per cent, again remaining the same. We find that under the conference changes the British preferential per pound rate is 2 cents, representing a decrease of one cent; the intermediate rate is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents, representing no change, and the general tariff 4 cents, again with no change.

Tariff item 532 represents commodities of necessity to the poor man. Despite that, however there has been no substantial reduction in the tariff rates. Then, let us consider tariff item 555 concerning clothing, wearing apparel and articles made from woven fabrics. The present rates are 30 per cent, 40 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, plus a per pound duty of 25 cents,  $32\frac{1}{2}$  cents and 35 cents. We will compare that with the conference rates of 30 per cent, 40 per cent and 40 per cent, and the per pound rates of  $18\frac{1}{2}$  cents,  $32\frac{1}{2}$  cents and 35 cents. There has been no substantial reduction.

Concerning tariff item 568a, socks and stockings of all kinds, there is a small reduction over the present rate. The present rates of percentage are the same, but there is a change in the per dozen rate. While the present rates per dozen are \$1, \$1.35 and \$1.50 respectively, the conference rates are 75 cents, \$1.35 and \$1.50. If we were to go further into the items we would find the same condition existing in many instances.

There is one item, however, to which I should like to draw particular attention, namely, laundry soap. Under the heading "Present Rates" we find the rates per 100 pounds are 65 cents, 90 cents and \$1. The conference rates are 50 cents, \$1.50 and \$1.50. Hon. members will note that there is an increase from 90 cents to \$1.50 in the intermediate rate, and an increase in the general rate from \$1 to \$1.50. Turning to the trade returns for the fiscal year ending March 31,

1932, furnished by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, we find that the total import in this commodity was valued at \$560,378. Of that amount \$6,507 came from Great Britain and \$552,296 from the United States. What will be the result? The price of soap will be increased. Then, turning to item 208 and following, in which certain chemicals are set out, we find that the tariff changes are bound to result in the raising of prices of raw materials, and consequently higher priced manufactured articles.

There are a few items to which reference has not been made by hon. members, and concerning which I should like to say a few words. In this connection I name items 206a, 236 and 476, which deal with bacteriological products, surgical dressings and surgical instruments, respectively—commodities used in the sick room. Changes in tariffs on these articles affect the sick, the infirm and the aged. Under the "Present Rate" column we find, in connection with item 476, that the rates are free in all three instances. The conference rate, however, is: British preferential, free, intermediate, ten per cent and general, ten per cent. Under item 236, surgical dressings, while the present rate is twelve and a half per cent, seventeen and a half per cent and twenty per cent, the conference rates are twelve and a half per cent, 25 per cent and 35 per cent. I say that commodities such as these, which are for the relief of the sick and the infirm, and the aged, should be allowed to enter duty free—should be allowed world free. The two hundred odd tariff changes will raise prices and increase the cost of living. There is absolutely no redress for the masses of the people, and British trade will not in any way be increased.

The Prime Minister asks parliament to bless this marriage with the high protective tariff for five years. He asks that we bind parliament and the country for a period of five years, during which time we will be powerless to negotiate treaties with other countries. May I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to make a pretty blunt statement? I am a comparatively new member in parliament, but I should like to speak frankly. Let us assume there may be a change in the government of the United States—and there is bound to be, if we may rely on present indications. Let us assume that the Democratic party is successful and desires to negotiate a treaty with Canada for limited reciprocity. We would be powerless to negotiate it. We are absolutely tied down, and I say that to make an agreement such as is now suggested is the height of folly. Further, I doubt very much whether this agreement is constitutional, and I suggest