

TARIFF COMMISSION—*Con.**White, Hon. W. T.—Con.*

men would be to change the purpose we have in view—3549. It is not advisable to insert a clause which is mandatory, and may destroy the purpose we have in view—3550. Is inclined to think that as it stands it is not at all objectionable—3551. There seems no reason why the scope of the section should be narrowed—3552. Sure Mr. McKenzie sees that the objects to be served by this commission more than warrant its appointment—3553. We want a commission and we want a good commission—3554. Thought it a safeguard to make two commissioners a quorum to hear evidence—3555. Cases in which one commissioner may act. It is a commonsense provision—3556. The primary purpose is not to investigate these matters, but as they bear upon cost of production they would come under this act—3557. Then you have the cost of management and overhead charges as they are called—3558. All these factors will undoubtedly have to be considered in the inquiry—3559. They must apply their best judgment to the facts in order to form a conclusion—3560. When the report is made it is the report of the commission—3561. The matters referred to will be matters to be investigated by the commission—3562. One section provides that they are to make inquiry and the other provides for the procedure—3563. It has a good deal to do with it—3564. What harm is there in defining what they may do, so as to make that point clear—3565. It will encourage people to give information which they would not give unless they knew they were protected—3566. You must trust the commission with a certain amount of discretion—3567. In addition to obtaining evidence under oath they may obtain it in a way they deem proper—3568. It is desirable to encourage people to give information helpful to the commission—3569. As between government and parliament there is no charge under the Bill—3570. This commission is purely auxiliary to the government to procure information—3571. It would mean that a large and important body of information would not be available to the minister—3577. We have not had any sinister or untoward results flow from information of that kind—3578. Surprised that Mr. Pugsley should suggest such a thing as a star chamber in Canada—3579. Even in an ordinary court is common for a judge to receive information that is confidential—3580. The information will be brought down. There is no departure for the custom—3581. There is absolutely no departure in principle. There will be confidential information given—3582. The commission may obtain information in a hundred ways and put their expert accountants into the offices of a firm—3583. No coercion will enable you to extort from men information that will injure their business—3584. Would hate to think it impossible to pick out three

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disinterested fair-minded men—3585. This commission is more in the interests of the consumers and farmers than it is of the manufacturers—3586. As a matter of fact not one of the men has been selected yet—3587. It is an advantage that a clause safeguarding confidential information should be in the Bill—3588. No objection to a reasonable opportunity being given to persons to state their views—3589. We always intended to give them an opportunity—3590. There is power taken in the Act for the employment of experts, accountants and so on—3591. Reports of various departments of various governments are evidence—3592. Confidential evidence—3608. Public opinion would not for one moment stand for the creation of such a tribunal—3609. Nothing to add—3610. There is no difficulty in reconciling the two statements—3614. He raises again the very question that was voted down a few minutes ago—3615. Has no authority to consent in the matter—3617. If Mr. Maclean will send him a note of his suggestion he will consider it—3618. If it is acceptable it might be inserted in section 5—3620. The idea is to get the result expeditiously without the formalities of a court of justice—3621. The commission will endeavour to get at the facts with as little formality as possible—3622. It was clearly shown that all these questions could be and would be investigated—3623. Suggests an amendment to section 7—3624. They will require short hand reporters—3625. Unless you compensate them well the office will not appeal to prospective commissioners—3626. Has been afraid that they would not be able to obtain the class of ability at the salaries fixed—3627. In cases of this kind travelling expenses cannot be foreseen—3628. Extraordinary how few people avail themselves of the franking privilege—3629. Gives attention to some amendments, Mr. Macdonald's amendment and Mr. A. K. Maclean's adopted—4079. Submits an amendment in the lines of Mr. Sinclair's, thinks these are all—4080. It has always been the intention that this information should be given to the House—4081.

TARIFF COMMISSION.

Bill 88. Third reading—Hon. W. T. White—4144.

*Borden, Rt. Hon. R. L. (Prime Minister)—*4146.

Sir Wilfrid has laid down principles to which he never paid the slightest attention during his term of office. He comes to the illogical conclusion that no partisan should be appointed to the board—Not a commission to make a tariff—4146-7. What greater need of such a clause in this Bill than in the Railway Commission Act? Should not accept the amendment—4148.