

to do what they think is best in the circumstances. Let us look a little into tariff history. This is from the report of the tariff board, page 46:

For many years prior to June 2, 1931, the rates of duty applicable to house, office, cabinet or store furniture of wood, iron, or any other material, in parts or finished, were 20 per centum, 27½ per centum and 30 per centum.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. It is eleven o'clock.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Mr. BENNETT: Some of us stay in this house all day, you know.

Item stands.

Progress reported.

NAVAL DEFENCE

STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER WITH RESPECT TO COMMUNICATION FROM RIGHT HON. SIR ROBERT BORDEN

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): If the house will permit me I should like to make a brief statement before adjournment in reference to a communication I received to-day from Sir Robert Borden. Sir Robert mentioned in it that he had been somewhat surprised upon his return to the city and reading Hansard to find in the discussion on defence which took place in this house the other evening that I had cast aspersions on his motives and good faith in introducing in 1912 the measure with respect to the contribution of three dreadnoughts to Great Britain.

I rise immediately to say to the house, and through the house to Sir Robert Borden, that the last thought that was in my mind in speaking then, or at any time, was to cast any aspersion on his good faith with respect to any measure he introduced while he was Prime Minister. I was dealing with the construction that was put on measures in political controversy in the election of 1911, what was said in controversy between the political parties in 1912, and what was stated in this house at the time the question of emergency was brought up, and I believe that the quotations which my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) made from speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that evening, in the course of the debate, bear out what I have said as to the construction which was placed upon the emergency or alleged emergency issue at that time.

I should not like a moment to pass without removing any impression that may exist that I have sought in any way to cast aspersions

on the motives of a former prime minister, and I hope the house will accept what I have said. I am sure it will be borne out by a reading of the debate that took place on the subject.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Friday, April 9, 1937

The house met at eleven o'clock.

MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. G. W. McPHEE (Yorkton) presented the third report of the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills.

He said: With the consent of the house I desire to move:

That the bills contained in the third report of the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills, presented this day, be placed upon the order paper of the house for consideration this day in committee of the whole, and for third reading.

Motion agreed to.

LABOUR DISPUTE

OSHAWA STRIKE OF AUTOMOBILE EMPLOYEES— MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT TO DISCUSS MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I desire to ask leave to move the adjournment of the house to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the strike at Oshawa and the concentration of federal and provincial police at Toronto, and the urgent necessity of government mediation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the house that the hon. member shall have leave so to move?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

And more than twenty members having risen:

Mr. WOODSWORTH: At this late stage in the session I have no desire unduly to delay the house, but I think we are all convinced that a grave situation is developing at Oshawa. I recall only too well having had to take up two years ago the matter of the unemployed advancing on Regina, and I then urged upon the house the necessity of discussion before there came bloodshed. I welcome the opportunity to-day briefly to bring this matter to the attention of the house.

As to the situation, statements have been given us pretty clearly by the various people