

Mr. BENNETT: But the reason was obvious; it was to endeavour to secure the tanning of these horse hides in our own country. That was the original purpose. The minister has doubtless received protests. I have received communications, sometimes including copies of letters sent to the minister, objecting to the doubling of this duty—

Mr. DUNNING: From the very people who are also on record as not asking for anything in connection with horse hides when they were subject to a duty of 20 per cent.

Mr. BENNETT: But the difficulty is this: Since the Canada-United States trade agreement was made they were satisfied with the 7½ per cent and did not want any more. Now they ask: Why should the minister double the rate? When the intermediate tariff has been accorded to a country and the granting of that tariff has not greatly interfered with the domestic trade, at least has not interfered to the extent of injuring it, why should we suddenly jump the duty up 100 per cent, when one particular concern is the one greatly affected by it? That is the problem I put to the minister, and if he will look into the matter between now and the time the bill is in committee I think he will find the facts exactly as I have stated. Those were the representations made a year ago, and there is nothing to induce me to believe tanning is going on in Canada to any considerable extent to change the situation, because it happens that the raw material for tanning is not available at many of the spots which have been mentioned.

Mr. STEVENS: I would point out that the item also includes cattle hides and sheep skins.

Mr. BENNETT: That is right, as it is amended.

Mr. STEVENS: It is not only leather made from horse hides but leather made from cattle and sheep skins, so what we are really doing is doubling the duty in the intermediate column on what is distinctly a raw material for a very important manufacturing industry, not only leather gloves but leather clothing. Leather is now largely used for windbreakers in men's coats, which is quite an important article in the colder sections particularly in the west, where men working out in very cold weather commonly wear a leather-lined coat. Leather for all that will now be 15 per cent under the intermediate tariff. This seems to me an extraordinary action. Would the minister object if I asked him to lay on the table the communications from the different manufacturers who asked for the increase?

Mr. DUNNING: I do not think I should do that, with respect to tariff matters.

Mr. STEVENS: Without such information it is a little difficult for one to discuss the item intelligently. One gets a certain amount of information of which one is perhaps not absolutely sure, and while I do not wish to embarrass the minister I do not see why a manufacturing concern asking for an increase of duty should object to the reasons being given, particularly on an item of this kind, which is sweeping in its character.

Mr. MacNICOL: In reference to horse hides, would the increased duty not give a better price to farmers or anybody else selling horse hides?

Mr. DUNNING: I doubt that. It is a matter of opinion at present, but I doubt it.

Mr. MacNICOL: It should give a better price to the farmer.

Mr. BENNETT: I had overlooked the matter of sheep skins, to which the hon. member for Kootenay East directed attention. That is all going to be in the item under discussion?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: No separation.

Mr. DUNNING: No; we have gone back to the old rate, and we went back to it because of representations since received from all quarters.

Mr. BENNETT: Does the new duty not touch the New Zealand situation?

Mr. DUNNING: No.

Mr. BENNETT: Because we made a special arrangement with New Zealand and Australia in regard to sheep skins, if the minister will remember.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: I have not made inquiries to ascertain the effect upon the arrangement with Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. DUNNING: This helps both of them. They would not protest, because it increases their margin.

Mr. BENNETT: What is the duty from Australia and New Zealand?

Mr. DUNNING: It is covered under the ordinary British preferential item.

Mr. BENNETT: The matter was under discussion, I remember, but was it ever consummated.