

*Customs Tariff*

Mr. BENNETT: That is the sense of the minister's observations.

Mr. DUNNING: The cuttlefish is now at work.

Mr. BENNETT: All the minister has to do is look at what he said, and he will find that I am correct.

One word more. I have to answer a point raised by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni. The colliery to which he referred has been abandoned. It was abandoned not for lack of capital. May I observe that it belonged to the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was abandoned because measures had petered out, and houses had been moved. The mine had been abandoned, and there are pickings taken from the dump and some excavations not far from the surface from which this 900 tons of coal was taken. That is the story about Bankhead. Therefore, so far as that case is concerned, I do not think there is much in it. But that has nothing to do with the essential fact that we have come to the parliament of Canada with a statute, and that statute does not contain what we promised, namely, that ten per cent would be the determining factor. Unless it does, all I can say is that while your majority may say no, we are bound to protest against a promise that has been made and is not being kept. The minister may call out to high heaven that that is a reflection upon the honour of his country, and all that sort of thing, if he wishes. But the ink is not any good; it does not darken the view; one can see straight through. The government are alarmed at what they have said, and want to get out of it, if it is possible to do so.

Mr. DUNNING: No.

Mr. BENNETT: And they look for a loophole. Finding it will not work satisfactorily, they say, "We will go to Japan and say, 'It has not worked out very well; let this go.'" And, of course, having been inspired by high heaven with this high impulse, they, as good neighbours, will at once yield to the view suggested and, if desirable, make it two per cent or three per cent. But remember always that the keynote of all the discussions is this: Just think what we are doing for the consumer.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes? Well, a few more idle people and a few more on relief will probably induce the consumer to believe that it is perhaps more desirable to supply employment than to supply relief.

[Mr. Dunning.]

The CHAIRMAN: Is the resolution carried?

Mr. BENNETT: No; we can only say no.

Mr. DUNNING: Is it carried?

Mr. BENNETT: On division.

Mr. NEILL: The leader of the opposition spoiled my perfectly good argument.

Mr. BENNETT: No, I do not think so.

Mr. NEILL: I would point out that we have heard of mines that could be rehabilitated. We have heard of mines that have been scratched on the surface and, if encouraged by suitable provisions in the tariff, it meant that those mines could be brought back again, and that new areas could be developed. It is quite possible that in the case of the mine to which the right hon. gentleman refers they had taken only the immediate portion which was readily available and that had the demand in the market justified it, a further extension could have been made and a greater demand would have been produced. However, the argument I advanced was not so much on behalf of the Bankhead mine—and there are others in the vicinity I will not mention—as it was with regard to our coal mines on the Pacific coast. It was our hope that there would be a dumping duty imposed on British anthracite for the protection of our bituminous coal mines, which were running up against the competition of subsidized British coal, to which I have referred. Is that fair competition? It is brought out at less than the regular freight rate, and it is entering our competitive market free of duty. That is the situation.

Resolution 3 agreed to on division.

Resolved, that the French version of tariff item 691 of schedule A to the customs tariff, being chapter forty-four of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, as enacted by section five of chapter twenty-eight of the statutes of 1935, be amended by striking out the word "croix" in the second line of the said item and substituting therefor the word "crosses."

Resolution agreed to.

Mr. DUNNING: Probably we should consider the Excise Act.

Mr. STEVENS: While the minister is preparing to discuss the Excise Act, may I ask him to bring to the house certain information which will be available when we come to resolution 5 of the group of resolutions we have been considering, that is, the resolution repealing a large number of items. A number of these items will undoubtedly be consoli-