

Mr. BENNETT: I shall be very glad to do so.

Mr. DUNNING: At any rate I know that one of the very largest fabricators is getting supplies. One other I know is—

Mr. BENNETT: Have they had any supplies delivered to them in the last three weeks?

Mr. DUNNING: It is difficult to say.

Mr. BENNETT: No, it is not.

Mr. DUNNING: I know that they do not regard themselves as being in immediate difficulty. A third I have in mind, who formerly relied on British sources and cannot now do so because of his purchasing arrangements, is being looked after, I am advised, by the Canadian source of supply. However, there is no need for us to argue about the matter. I could have well imagined, had action been taken along the lines of the request of my right hon. friend before this item came up for discussion, that some hon. members would have condemned the government for letting down the tariff bars against the United States. We are very glad to know that the leader of the opposition has the great appreciation that he has of the nature of the problem, and, as I said at the outset, it will assist very materially in moving forward quickly in regard to it. It does not affect this item; it amounts really to creating an exception from this item for a temporary condition.

Mr. WARD: My understanding of the tariff regulations has been that unless ten per cent of a commodity was produced in Canada the provisions of the tariff did not apply. Am I correct in that?

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. DUNNING: No, there is nothing of that kind. The hon. member is thinking of the dumping duty, not of the straight tariff.

Mr. BENNETT: The dumping duty would have no application if this were done now. I do not see why the minister finds it desirable in dealing with this item to talk about forensic powers or abilities.

Mr. DUNNING: I admire them very much.

Mr. BENNETT: That is beside the issue. There is no need of discussing them. We are dealing with an item and a problem that is involved in it, and we want to deal with that problem on an intelligent, businesslike basis. When the hon. gentleman says that he knows of one firm that is receiving raw material, sheets, he is referring to General Steel Wares,

[Mr. Dunning.]

who get their material from Baldwins, with whom they had a working arrangement; and as a matter of fact the president of the enterprise is one of the directors of Baldwins. At one time they had a branch here. What is the sense of saying that there is any secrecy about it? Everyone is thoroughly familiar with all the facts. They say they are receiving a portion of their deliveries, but they had large credits arranged for their supplies. They had foresight, and they will probably reap a substantial profit by that foresight. They are the only large producers of galvanized sheets, and they are not suppliers to the particular business in western Canada to which I have reference.

Surely this is not a question of suggesting what might have been done. When a minister of the crown, particularly the Minister of Finance, suggests that under other conditions some different course would have been taken, that is entirely beside the point. The question is, what course have we taken? That is the issue, and it will be found that during the five years we were in office we took but one course with respect to these matters. While we were developing Canadian industry and giving employment to Canadians we saw to it that if the time came when it was impossible to secure requirements for Canadians there would be proper provision for that very purpose. We made provision whereby it could be done; for the tariff is precisely for that purpose.

This is not a matter that has arisen to-day or yesterday; it has been known for weeks, and has been pressed upon the minister. He says he wants to know what the facts are. I say that he has had ample time to get the facts; and if we had been as dilatory in dealing with such a matter as that lapse of time suggests we should no doubt have been blamed, as we were with respect to other matters.

The corn matter did become acute and the South African government came to an agreement and action was taken. Up to the moment England has not been asked. The minister makes that abundantly clear from what he says. It takes time for the government to make inquiries there, and by the time these inquiries are made it will perhaps be too late to deal with the matter and the whole channel of trade of the country in this direction will have been disturbed by reason of that fact.

The minister must not think that because one speaks in this manner there is anything personal about it. There is no necessity for animadverting upon the poor way in which