

everything he had to sell in the winter. They cleaned his place right up, and provided the money which made everything go.

A lot of people who thought they were doing something for the country were buying bonds and hiding them. I say that the man who did nothing but buy government bonds, who put no money in industry or business, did nothing for his country; and I am glad to see him getting only about half the usual return now because that is what he deserves. They squeezed the business world for money to buy bonds.

I appreciate this opportunity of saying a few words and letting hon. members know something about the persecutions which go on in the customs house. If the Minister of National Revenue wants to know anything in particular about his department, I can tell him something about it. It took us two years at one time to bring about a change. We who are in the legitimate business—I should not say “we” because I am not in it now; I cannot afford to be in it any longer; I could not stand the pressure—the people in the business were losing money continually. The man who brings in carloads of produce cannot cheat the government. The car is opened by customs officials. For years we told the government that there was bootlegging by trucks coming in from Niagara, Black Rock, Buffalo and Detroit; we tried to convince the government that there was something wrong. This is how it was done. When the duty of one cent per pound was put on grapefruit the truckers with their big ten-ton trucks went to Detroit and Buffalo, put fifty boxes of grapefruit in the centre of their truck, loaded the sides with oranges which carried no duty, and were able to sell their stuff for fifty cents a box less than the man who imported by the carload. They could do that, and still make half a dollar more than the other man. The same thing was done with regard to grapes from California. They would put a hundred lugs in the middle of a big truck, and when we were paying two cents duty they were paying nothing, because the outer sides of their trucks were covered with materials which were not dutiable at all.

We fought the Department of Customs for two years before we were able to convince them that that was going on. To-day that is all changed, and it has been changed for some time. Now they have to unload their trucks at Black Rock, or Niagara Falls, and show what is in them. But they did not do that formerly. I should not like to say that the port of entry or the man in charge was at fault, but even yet we find that some things

are crooked in connection with importations from Detroit and Buffalo. So you have to keep your eye on what is going on over there, instead of keeping your eye so much on the legitimate dealer who has a large amount of money invested. That is the man you are after now, and you are putting him out of business. I am not one of them, because I have not the money.

I think I have given the house a little information about the manipulations of the National Revenue department which have the effect of working against the trade. I wish the Minister of National Revenue would keep the unfair side of it in his mind, namely, the levying of duties or asking for amended entries after a car has been bought and sold. I will leave it to the Minister of National Revenue himself. He may be hard up, but the people he is robbing are just as hard up as he is.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have refrained from making extensive observations on the various items in the tariff bill now under consideration, but in view of certain observations which were made to-day I think it desirable to direct attention to one or two matters.

The arguments presented by the hon. member for Huron North (Mr. Deachman) and hon. members in other parts of the house were to the effect that we should have greater freedom of trade. I recall that the Prime Minister in this house in 1932 made several references to South Huron. He said:

In order that there be no mistake as to where the Liberal party stands on the matter of the preference, may I repeat here what I said in South Huron, and what I have said repeatedly at other times and in other localities, that the policy of the Liberal party with respect to trade is to encourage greater freedom of trade, to remove restrictions and barriers rather than to increase them, and that if as a party we were returned to office our first objective would be to bring the tariff of Canada back to where it was at the time we went out of office.

That was the so-called Dunning budget. I am not unmindful of the fact that my hon. friend the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar) resigned his office in the government of that day because he felt that the tariff increases that were then made were not warranted, and because he did not believe in a policy of protection.

Mr. CRERAR: My right hon. friend is mistaken; it was not because of tariff increases at that time.