

Customs Tariff

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, we have here a forthright statement by the tariff board that after investigation, which of course applied to the time at which they submitted their report, they found that these forms of steel were not produced in Canada by basic steel producers.

I am quite familiar with the kind of information which the minister has in front of him. When I was on the official side I had the privilege of receiving memos and summaries with respect to situations of this kind from some officers of the departments. I think some of the same officers were in fact in office at the time when I was assistant to the minister of finance, and in those notes an indication was always given as to who were the Canadian producers. This information is also invariably given to us in the tariff board reports, so I do not see why there should be any secrecy on the part of the

minister and why he should not say that in the last 18 months, for instance, so-and-so and so-and-so became producers of these products and thus need extra protection. I would have been prepared to have given such information from the notes that were provided me in the days gone by.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, the information has come to us from a number of Canadian producers; it is not a matter of one or two, and I can also tell the hon. gentleman, with all respect to the tariff board, that we are satisfied that the information upon which the tariff board based the finding which he read was certainly not as complete or as up to date as the information which has been made available to the department in the interval.

Item agreed to.

Item 381b agreed to.

Customs Tariff	British preferential tariff	Most-favoured-Nation tariff	general tariff
382 Sheet or strip of iron or steel, corrugated or not, and whether or not with rolled surface pattern:			
(1) Hot-rolled.....	5 p.c.	10 p.c.	20 p.c.
(2) Cold-rolled or cold-drawn.....	5 p.c.	15 p.c.	25 p.c.
(3) Coated with tin or vitreous enamel.....	10 p.c.	15 p.c.	25 p.c.
(4) Coated with zinc.....	7½ p.c.	15 p.c.	25 p.c.
(5) Coated, n.o.p.....	7½ p.c.	15 p.c.	20 p.c.
(6) Hot- or cold-rolled, when imported by manufacturers of butts and hinges for use in the manufacture of butts and hinges, in their own factories.....	Free	7½ p.c.	10 p.c.
(7) Cold-rolled, with silicon content of 0.075 per cent or more, when imported by manufacturers of electrical apparatus or of parts therefor, for use in the manufacture of electrical apparatus or of parts therefor, in their own factories.....	5 p.c.	12½ p.c.	25 p.c.

Mr. McIlraith: I wonder whether the minister would consider having this item stand over, with the pipes and tubes item. I think that would expedite matters.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I think the hon. gentleman misunderstands. You have called item 382, paragraph 4, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. McIlraith: Oh, I see, I was thinking of item 384.

The Chairman: Item 382 (5).

Mr. Benidickson: Here again is a departure from the recommendation of the tariff board and, indeed, it is rather a substantial increase with respect to British preference. As I remember it, the tariff board recommended

[Mr. Fleming (Eglinton).]

that this particular item, so far as Great Britain is concerned, should be imported free, and notwithstanding the forthcoming commonwealth trade negotiations the administration has seen fit to suggest 7½ per cent. I wonder if the minister would give us some explanation.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This item relates to coated sheets not otherwise provided. On this product the tariff board recommended a British preferential rate of free, and a most-favoured-nation rate of 10 per cent. These proposed rates are significantly lower than the rates recommended by the tariff board for the other coated sheet. Experience has shown that it is not wise to have the basket item, that is to say the n.o.p. item carry