Customs tariff—289. Baths, bathtubs, basins, closets, lavatories, urinals, sinks and laundry tubs of earthenware, stone, cement, clay or other material, n.o.p.: British preferential tariff, 20 per cent; intermediate tariff, 35 per cent; general tariff, 35 per cent.

The imports last year were valued at $336,000, of which $256,000 came from the United Kingdom, and $77,000 from the United States.

Mr. DUFF: What was the Canadian production?

Mr. RHODES: The production in Canada last year of sanitary earthenware was valued at $3,200,000.

Mr. POWER: On the theory that cleanliness is next to godliness, why not make this item free?

Mr. DONNELLY: I notice that the only rate changed is the intermediate and I should like to know why this rate was changed when there were no imports from the countries enjoying that rate.

Mr. RHODES: I do not know that I can give my hon. friend a specific answer as to why this individual item was increased except to say that it widens the degree of preference to Great Britain.

Mr. POWER: It is the same.

Mr. DONNELLY: It is the same to the United States.

Mr. RHODES: The intermediate under the old rate was 30 per cent and it has been increased to 35 per cent.

Mr. DONNELLY: Why was it changed?

Mr. RHODES: Because it widens the margin of preference.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not only in the case of this item but in the case of the previous two items an increase has been made in the intermediate rate while the general rate has been left the same. In each instance the intermediate rate has been raised to the level of the general. Is not the real reason for this change to take away any opportunity which may offer in the way of negotiating trade agreements with other countries that are prepared to give special concessions to us? Do not these items illustrate that this whole tariff has been framed not so much to give preference to Great Britain as to make impossible trade with other countries of the world?

Mr. RHODES: I cannot quarrel with my right hon. friend in his interpretation of the agreement but I assure him that from our

point of view the object was to widen the preference and increase the importations from British Empire sources. Of course that will be done only to the extent which we diminish imports from foreign countries.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think these changes have been made to further the objective as stated by the Prime Minister, namely, to shut out the foreigner.

Mr. STEVENS: He never said that.

Mr. YOUNG: He said, "that is the one thing we have done."

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): It is reported on page 835 of Hansard.

Mr. DONNELLY: I cannot see why the intermediate rate should be changed as no goods have come in under that rate. Goods came in under both the general and British preference and there must be some other reason for this change.

Mr. RHODES: If none came in before then no one will be injured. Great Britain accepted this change as a wider preference and the only preference which could be given under the circumstances.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I should like to quote from page 835 of Hansard as follows:

Another says that we have closed the doors of the world's markets, that we have shut out the foreigner. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that that was one of the first things he was going to do if he got the British preference, and that is the one thing we have done.

Mr. YOUNG: The only thing they have done.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Who is right, the Minister of Trade and Commerce or the Prime Minister?

Mr. CAYLEY: The minister has told us that the total production in Canada is valued at $3,200,000 while the value of the total imports amounts to only one-tenth of this amount. As far as I can see the only parties who will be benefited will be the Canadian manufacturers.

Mr. RHODES: There is another point of view which I think is of equal value, that it will make competition all the more keen between the Canadian and British manufacturers.

Mr. CAYLEY: The British manufacturer is not coming into the market; he imported only $256,000 worth.

Item agreed to.