

13-14 GEORGE V, A. 1923

The CHAIRMAN: In order to be absolutely fair to all interests, we send the evidence to the people whose conditions are more or less criticised and we give them an opportunity to come before the Committee to explain their side of the case. If these people do not want to come it seems to me we should let the matter stop there. We have not time to make an investigation of the business of people who do not want to come and place their views before us. I do not think we should summon them.

Mr. CALDWELL: Unless we have some object in finding out more about their business.

Mr. MILNE: It seems to me that it is the conditions we want to find out. If we lay the conditions before the Government, it seems to me it is perfectly right that we should go to work and see if there is anything wrong with the way in which these people do their business.

Mr. SALES: If somebody had given an unfair representation of the conduct of my business, I should be here to defend myself.

Mr. MILNE: If those manufacturers wish to come, they can do so, but until they express the desire I think we should let the matter rest.

The CHAIRMAN: If we were going to make an investigation of the tariff, we would require to sit for a year and devote our attention to nothing else. Where the tariff is incidentally referred to as a burden to our agricultural community, we take note of it; we also, animated by a spirit of fairness, give those whose business is criticized, an opportunity to be heard. I doubt if we should go much further than that.

Mr. SALES: If you do you will never get through.

Mr. GARDINER: There is just one point I would like to call to the attention of the Committee. We had a tariff inquiry in 1920. As far as I know, that report has never been available.

The CHAIRMAN: No, it has never been placed before the members.

Mr. GARDINER: If you need any information there is no doubt we could get a lot of information from that report.

Mr. MCKAY: Where is it, in cold storage?

The CHAIRMAN: It is in cold storage.

Mr. CALDWELL: Why not ask on the Orders of the Day if this report could not be brought down. As Chairman of the Committee you could very logically ask for that.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I would like to see it.

Mr. GARDINER: I will make that motion, seconded by Mr. McKay, that the Chairman be instructed, on the Orders of the Day, to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the Drayton Tariff Commission has never reported, and that the report should be available to the members of this Committee and also to the members of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: As to the question of rural credits, we are going to call Mr. Farrow and Mr. Maclean.

Mr. GARDINER: In connection with this rural credit, we have Mr. Ward, the Secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, who has quite a bit of information in this line, and I would suggest we hear him.

Mr. MCKAY: Is he here now?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we will now start hearing witnesses. I will ask Mr. Martel to appear first, because he wants to get away, and his examination