

Customs Tariff

Mr. Winch: I do not know that. All I know is that I was most interested when I was in Australia last year to be told about the research and the work they were doing on the production of wool fabrics which would enable people to have garments such as we have in Canada today. An example is the shirt which is washable and does not need to be ironed.

I was told they were nearing the end of their research. I read in the papers last week a statement by a member of the Australian trade commission that they were now engaged in production of this material. Will this come under the tariff, or since it has been developed in a part of the commonwealth will it come in duty free?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I have not the information the hon. member has about this particular product. I have heard nothing of the announcement to which he refers; consequently my answer must be somewhat reserved for that reason. If the product is entirely of wool then these items we are now dealing with in Bill No. C-74 would have no application whatever. It would be under a different item altogether in the tariff dealing with woollens. Beyond that it would not be wise for me to attempt to go until we know more about the particular product and the ingredients of it.

Items 561e, 562a, 562b, 562c, 562d, 562e, 562f, 562g, 562h, 563, 563a, 564 and 565 agreed to.

Customs tariff—573. Enamelled carriage, shelf and table oilcloth, and cork matting or carpets. British preferential tariff, 15 per cent; most favoured nation tariff, 27½ per cent; general tariff, 35 per cent and 4 cents per pound.

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, with respect to item 573 what change is involved in this schedule?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): With reference to the item there is no change whatever in rates. The item itself continues without change that part of item 573 which relates to oilcloth and cork matting or carpets. Linoleum which formerly was included in item 573 is dealt with now in 573a. That is the change that has been made in 573.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—573a. Linoleum; felt base floor covering not including such materials in which are incorporated synthetic resin sheets or cellulose plastic sheets. British preferential tariff, 15 per cent; most favoured nation tariff, 25 per cent; general tariff, 35 per cent and 4 cents per pound.

Mr. Benidickson: I see a reduction of 2½ per cent in the tariff under item 573a from 27½ per cent most favoured nation to 25 per

[Mr. Benidickson.]

cent, with respect to linoleum. What industry have we in Canada that is affected by this change?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There are factories in Canada, Mr. Chairman, that produce linoleum. This is a very modest change indeed; it is only 2½ per cent. The new rates proposed will still provide for a very substantial level of protection to Canadian linoleum producers and a very substantial margin of preference for commonwealth imports.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—586. Anthracite coal; anthracite coal screenings and dust: British preferential tariff, free; most favoured nation tariff, free; general tariff, 50 cents per ton.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Chairman, would the minister give us an explanation of 586 relating to anthracite coal screenings and dust?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, I gave a full explanation of this item when we were in the committee of ways and means. The hon. member will find it in *Hansard* of June 8 at page 4687, in the second column.

Mr. Benidickson: Did the minister at that time explain clearly what type of anthracite coal paid entry 50 cents per ton on most favoured nation?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I thought I did, Mr. Chairman. This applies to the screenings and the dust.

Mr. Winch: Is the 50 cents per ton on coal coming from the United States to Nova Scotia, a coal mining area of Canada?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The general tariff rate of 50 cents per ton did apply to screenings and dust coming into Canada from the United States, but under this item the import will now be free for the reasons which I gave. This matter has been discussed with the dominion coal board, and we have been assured that this tariff change will have no adverse effect on Canadian coal production.

Mr. Benidickson: In his reports from his officials perhaps the minister has information I have not as to the end use of anthracite coal screenings and dust in Canada. What is the purpose of the import? What largely is the product devoted to once it arrives?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It is of particular interest in the production of pig iron, titanium and other products such as electric battery boxes.

Mr. Benidickson: Are some of the industries producing these products located in the maritimes?