

excelled during the days of strife and struggle, when she did exceed almost any other country on earth in manufacturing the goods that were necessary for the world's use at that time. In my humble opinion it will go a long way toward easing the difficulty under which our agrarian friends in Western Canada now suffer that they should be able to extend their home market, and enlarge more and more the production of the things that the Canadian people will consume; because the farther away your market is, the more costly it is to transport the goods that you produce, and it is the producer who must bear the cost.

So this experiment, as submitted to the people, is now submitted to Parliament, and I believe that our honourable friends opposite will at least let the Government try the experiment out, and if it does not succeed I expect they will come and say to the Government, "We told you so." But the people of Canada are not satisfied with the situation as it has existed, and are looking forward to a change, and to the adoption of the policy of the Prime Minister and a fulfilment of the promises which he has made. Therefore the Government of this day is launching upon a courageous course which it believes will bring greater happiness and prosperity to the country at a time when they surely are sorely needed.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: May I ask my honourable friend a question? I concede absolutely that there is a great exhibition of courage here, but as I read section 2 of this Bill I notice that new section 37 says:

37. In determining the fair market value for duty of goods imported into Canada, the prices of which are published or listed by the manufacturers or producers, or persons acting on their behalf, the Governor in Council may from time to time fix and determine a certain rate of discount which may be applied to such published or listed prices, and such published or listed prices, subject to deduction of the amount of discount according to such rate, shall be deemed and taken to be the fair market values of any such manufactures or productions respectively as are specified in such Order in Council.

Is it the intention that the Governor in Council, under that materially revised section, shall or may ignore or annihilate the new Tariff Bill that we understand is coming to this Parliament? In other words, in the case of automobiles or any other commodities can he determine on such a discount as would make ineffective the increase that is now proposed in the new tariff? I should like to ask my honourable friend whether that can be done.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable gentlemen, I think we are departing somewhat from the usual practice of this House on the second reading of a Bill, and we have practically gotten ourselves into the committee stage without moving the House into Committee. Therefore, if we follow this course, we may not need to refer the Bill to the Committee.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: An answer given now might render unnecessary the committee stage.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Yes. My honourable friend suggests that under section 2 of the Bill it might be possible for the Government so to act that the protection afforded by the tariff might be wholly eliminated. There are several methods by which that provision may be administered, because it may be a manufacturer or a producer that is importing, or it may be a person acting on his behalf. That simply means that the value of goods shipped on consignment, and having no owner in this country, may be fixed in anticipation of a change in conditions or prices. If it is expected that prices are going to rise, the Minister of Finance, through the Minister of National Revenue, may recommend that action be taken under that clause for the protection of the industry in Canada. The section has no ulterior meaning and does not materially change the existing legislation except, perhaps, to extend the powers when unprecedented and unusual circumstances warrant.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: The original section says, "If any difficulty arises." The one before us does not propose looking for difficulty, but assumes the right to determine the rate of discount in any case where the Governor in Council desires. I am whole-heartedly in sympathy with an honest-to-goodness measure that will really prevent dumping; but in this, if I read it correctly—and I hope I am not too suspicious—I see the opportunity for the Government of the day to make friends at will by setting a tariff rate on any commodity or any article, from time to time, as the exigencies in their judgment seem to require. If that is not permitted under the section I certainly want to be put right.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: If the law is positive and gives to the Minister, or the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister, the power to determine, then it must necessarily follow that difficulties will not arise and that there will be no difficulty in determining the fair market value. Apparently the question was open to dispute