

woollen trade in Canada from that angle, we would need to have the figures for a number of years.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: May I ask the honourable gentleman whether the figures just quoted are in his opinion quite correct? Are the reports complete, and has the department received full returns as to the number of men employed in that industry?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have this statement from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which has been put into my hands with the knowledge that I would make use of it, so I take it for granted that it will stand the test.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Only a few days ago the woollen manufacturers filed a brief with the Government in which they represented that more than seven thousand employees had been removed from service owing to lack of employment within the last twelve months.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My statement covers the activities of 30 manufacturing establishments.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I think we should have the full returns.

Hon. Mr. SMITH: That does not necessarily cover all of them.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Now I come to the footwear industry. The first item covers "boots and shoes, stitched or wire-fastened, with unstitched sole, close edges." The preferential tariff on these goods is 15 per cent, the intermediate tariff 22½ per cent, and the general tariff 25 per cent. This preference came into force in May, 1922, when the rate of duty was decreased from 17½ per cent to 15 per cent. There was no reduction in 1923. The imports from Great Britain for the nine months ending the 31st of December, 1921, amounted to \$2,591; the 31st December, 1922, \$3,546; the 31st December, 1923, \$3,719.

The second item, "boots, shoes, slippers and insoles of any material," are liable to 17½ per cent under the preferential tariff, 27½ per cent under the intermediate, and 30 per cent under the general. In 1922 the duty was decreased from 20 per cent to 17½ per cent; in 1923, 10 per cent was cut off if the goods were imported direct into Canada, thus making the rate 15½ per cent.

The boots and shoes reaching this country from all sources, during the nine months ending December 31, were as follows: 1921, \$983,706; 1922, \$855,030; 1923, \$1,105,632. There was an increase in the importation of 1923

over those of 1922 which amounted to \$250,602. From the United Kingdom we received in 1921 \$283,049 worth of footwear, in 1922 \$404,828, and in 1923 \$652,083, an increase of \$247,255 in 1923 over 1922.

In the 12 months of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1923, the total imports of boots and shoes were \$1,633,087 (excepting rubber shoes), which is 2½ per cent of the value of all boots and shoes produced in Canada and imported into Canada. We produced and imported into Canada during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1923, \$70,200,000 worth of boots and shoes.

The United States in the last three calendar years furnished us with footwear as follows: in 1921, \$1,021,356; in 1922, a reduction to \$815,193; and in 1923, about the same figure, \$835,982.

From the United Kingdom we received in 1921, the calendar year, \$292,012; in 1922, \$391,080; and in 1923, \$604,472.

If the complaint is made that 15½ per cent is not sufficient protection against British goods, how much would be sufficient? Twenty-five per cent? Well, we have 25 per cent against American goods, yet they still come in, though not to a considerable extent. All that the Canadian manufacturer stands to lose is 2½ per cent.

Our total importations in 1921 were \$799,478,483; in 1922 they were \$762,409,309; in 1923, \$903,530,515.

Exports were: in 1921, \$861,694,281; in 1922, \$898,177,851; and in 1923, \$1,028,319,123. The imports from Great Britain in 1923 were \$154,492,420, and from the United States \$610,374,804.

Our exports to Great Britain were \$360,819,518, and to the United States \$422,041,789. Our exports to Great Britain are 35.6 per cent of our total exports, while our imports from Great Britain are 17.1 per cent of our total importations.

Apparently we have no reason to complain of the treatment we are giving the United Kingdom, when we are selling them more than 35 per cent of all exports and buying from that market but 17.1 per cent. Thus, I repeat, the importations that we receive from Great Britain under this lowered duty are for the advantage of Canada and not primarily for the advantage of Great Britain.

I must add, in order to show that there has been no let up in the manufacture of woollens in Canada, that gradually in recent years our raw wool has increased annually, and the increase was larger in 1923 than in the two preceding years.