

tripled, there would still be some amount of boots and shoes of specialized kinds imported, which certain people demand.

The leader of the opposition made the general statement that tariffs do not raise prices—

Mr. MANION: I said they are not for the purpose of raising prices.

Mr. HEAPS: Well, a statement of that kind is too general. So far as the boot and shoe industry is concerned, I believe the tariff has not had the effect of raising prices in Canada to any appreciable extent. However, I remember very well sitting on the price spreads committee when it went carefully into the boot and shoe industry and discovered a sad state of affairs. Wages in the industry were extremely low; men and women employed in it were very much underpaid, and furthermore many of the concerns in the industry were in a bad financial condition. So apparently the tariff had not the effect of increasing prices; there was so much internal competition that prices were kept fairly low. But, I may mention in passing, there are industries that take full advantage of every bit of tariff protection. I do not want to go into that aspect now. As regards the boot and shoe industry, however, I point out that in spite of the thirty per cent protection granted by this government, and the still higher protection formerly granted, the men and women employed in that industry receive no advantage whatever from the protection given to the industry. It came out in the price spreads investigation that they are among the lowest paid workers in Canada.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—611b. Leather garments, lined or unlined: 30 per cent.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—612. Harness and saddlery, including horse boots, n.o.p.: 22½ per cent.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—613. Manufactures of leather, including manufactures of rawhide, n.o.p.: 25 per cent.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—ex 616. Rubber, recovered: free.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—618. Rubber cement and all manufactures of India-rubber and gutta percha, n.o.p.: 22½ per cent.

Item agreed to.

71492—149½

Customs tariff—618b. Tires of rubber for vehicles of all kinds, fitted or not: 25 per cent.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—618c; ex 711. Chlorine derivatives of India-rubber insoluble in carbon tetrachloride, in sheets not exceeding three one-thousandths of an inch in thickness, coloured or not but not printed, lithographed or embossed, when for use in Canadian manufactures: 5 per cent.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—619. Rubber or gutta percha hose, and cotton hose lined with rubber; rubber mats or matting and rubber packing: 22½ per cent.

Mr. MacNICOL: What are the imports of rubber hose?

Mr. DUNNING: Of rubber hose, mats and packing, imports from the United States last year amounted to \$216,000. Our exports to all countries totaled \$224,000, to the United States, \$7,900; and our Canadian production, adding all items together, was \$2,400,000.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): What are our importations of crude rubber from the United States for the last ten years, since the imposition of the excise tax?

Mr. DUNNING: Crude rubber not being in the agreement, I have not the details before me with respect to the imports. If my hon. friend will communicate with me, I shall gladly give him the information as a matter of general interest.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Then, may I ask if it is intended to remove the excise tax from crude rubber?

Mr. DUNNING: My hon. friend will realize immediately that this question does not arise under this agreement. Under the agreement the Canadian government agrees with the United States government that it will ask this parliament to remove the excise on those items named in the schedule. Any decision with respect to items not named in the schedule is a matter of domestic policy for Canada, which will be revealed by the government in due course.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): There are many articles that enter into the manufacture of rubber tires and rubber goods, and a great many of those articles are not mentioned in the agreement. Others are included in the agreement, and it is proposed to remove the excise tax from them. In addition, the duty has been reduced on many lines of rubber goods coming into Canada, and it seems to