

in the Ottawa 'Free Press' of February 22:

'RAINBOW' MA&ES FIRST SEIZURE.'

The Department of Naval Affairs has received a message to the effect that the new Canadian Cruiser 'Rainbow', while rounding Cape Scott, had caught the steamer 'Edric' of Seattle fishing within the three-mile limit, and was proceeding to Esquimalt with the 'Edric' in tow.

I would like to ask the minister if this report is correct, and if so, to what nationality the vessel seized belongs.

Mr. BRODEUR. I have seen the report in the newspapers, and I asked the department to send me the particulars. I expect to receive them in a few minutes, and will inform my hon. friend. I suppose that the information is correct. All the vessels of the Canadian navy are utilized in the protection of the fisheries.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). What business will be taken up to-morrow?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. To-morrow we intend to proceed with Supply.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). What particular department?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I shall state that later in the day.

Mr. FIELDING. There is a special Supply Bill for the current year with which some progress has been made. That will be the first item.

WAYS AND MEANS — RECIPROCAL TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. FIELDING moved that the House go into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I beg to bring to the attention of the House a communication I have received from the Trent River Paper Company, it is as follows:

E. Gus Porter, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir,—I learned from the papers, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has promised to carefully consider any objections filed against the proposed changes in the tariff.

Relying upon this promise, I appeal to you as our representative in parliament, to bring to the attention of the Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the truth concerning the position the strawboard manufacturers of Canada would be placed in, should the proposed change in the tariff regarding paper, pasteboard and similar products selling for 4c. or less than 4c. per pound, be put into effect.

The Hon. Mr. Fielding when introducing the reciprocity agreement, stated that he has consented to admit all manufactures of paper selling for 4 cents or less, into Can-

ada, free of duty, because he is of the opinion that the Canadian manufacturers should be able to compete, with manufacturers of similar products in the United States.

Unfortunately for the manufacturers of strawboard in Canada, the Hon. Mr. Fielding has failed to realize the true position of affairs, and I submit, through you, for the consideration of the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Hon. Mr. Fielding, the following facts:

1st. The freight rates on strawboard, from strawboard mills situated in Ohio, are lower to Windsor and London than our rates are, and as low as ours to Paris, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Berlin, Guelph, Galt, Brampton, and Brantford, and only 40 cents per ton higher to Toronto. Our Winnipeg business would be lost to Michigan or Indiana mills, owing to the great difference in freight rates in their favour.

2nd. Our product is to be admitted free, and we are called upon to pay the following rates of duty:—

	Per ton.
On slack coal (a large item in our cost of manufacture)	\$0 14
Freight from International bridge . .	1 30

Or, in all \$1 44

Beyond a doubt we have got to pay \$1.44 more per ton for our fuel than the United States manufacturers have. Further however, on this subject of coal, the freight on a ton of coal from the mines to the international bridge is \$1.25 per 2,000 lbs. On the other hand, all the board mills in Ohio can bring their coal supply to their mills for less than \$1 per ton or thereabouts.

Therefore, Canadian manufacturers are under a handicap of from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per ton on the manufactured product, in so far as coal consumption alone is concerned.

Again, it must be remembered, that we have to endure rigorous winter season, and the amount expended in fuel for the mere heating of the mill buildings is considerable.

The duty on felts, another large item in the cost of manufacture, is 35 per cent, the duty on wire cloth, 30 per cent, the duty on machinery and parts thereof is from 27½ to 30 per cent, on valves and steam pipe, and steam pipe fittings, pumps, belting and all other supplies, we pay a high rate of duty.

We consider that the duties on outward and inward freights we pay, place us under a disadvantage of from \$2.50 to \$4.50 per ton, according to distance or point of delivery from our mill. The business west of Boston we will lose—no hope in that direction.

This question of the paper and pulp section of the reciprocity agreement seems to me to be in a very complex condition. As I read it, only paper or woodboard, the major part of which consists of mechanical or chemical pulp, is to be admitted free into the United States, and even then, only when the pulp is produced from timber cut upon land, upon which there are no provincial government regulations, hindering the free export of pulp wood to the States. Such paper or board to be of the value of 4 cents per pound or less than 4 cents per pound. On the other hand, as far as I understand the wording of this same paragraph as it reads in the reciprocity resolution introduced in the House of Commons, all paper, pasteboard and similar