

wholly with respect to sheep skin. The importations, of course, are not much of a guide, as the leader of the opposition says, because they apply to a period when the tariff was twenty per cent against the countries from which the horse hide comes. But the importations were very small. The total importation of all these leathers, sheep skins and all the rest, was only \$31,500 in the last year of record.

Mr. STEVENS: Would that fact not suggest that the existing rate of 7½ per cent was sufficient?

Mr. BENNETT: That is just what I was going to say.

Mr. DUNNING: If figures mean anything this appears to work in reverse, because I have before me the figures for the first three months of 1936, under the Canada-United States trade agreement, under which the 7½ per cent rate was in effect, and I find that importations amounted to \$226 in January, \$735 in February, and \$364 in March. For one quarter of the year under the new tariff the total imports appear to be \$1,325.

Mr. BENNETT: Of course that is not the season.

Mr. DUNNING: No, but I gather that the imports are fairly steady. Be that as it may, it confirms an anomalous situation which appears all through my examination of this question. I have tried to strike as nearly as I could a fair balance, having regard to the fact that the glove manufacturers apparently were satisfied with twenty per cent on leather and did not include horse hides in their application. The examination I have given to the matter mainly centred, of course, round the question of sheep skins, which were the chief item of contention before the tariff board.

Mr. STEVENS: Would the minister object to saying who made the application for an increase in the intermediate tariff?

Mr. DUNNING: Oh, I must have had half a dozen representations, some through members of the house. I cannot recollect the names of the concerns; there is one tanner at Kitchener, another at Cobourg, another at Toronto, and another in Barrie; I have a particular memory of the Barrie one. So many communications come in I do not carry them all in my mind.

Mr. STEVENS: That is good enough.

[Mr. Dunning.]

Mr. DUNNING: There was something from Vancouver, but I do not remember the name of the concern. I tried to settle the question fairly having regard to the representations from all quarters.

Mr. BENNETT: I think that to double the intermediate tariff on this item is not fair. I tried to look up such memoranda as I kept about such matters when communications came before the government. Last August complaint was made about the reduction of duty on gloves and the increased duty on horse hides. It must be remembered that the duty on gloves has been reduced, and with that there was an increase in the cost of the raw material. The glove manufacturers believe that is unfair. I tried to look up the various notes I had made personally; I do not keep systematic notes, but as these various matters came before me I used to try to keep a note of them, and they went to the Department of Finance, and sometimes from there to the tariff board. But I think that to double this intermediate tariff item is not quite fair, notwithstanding what the minister says. As late as last year the horse hide production in this country was limited practically to one tannery. If the minister will be good enough to look the matter up, before these resolutions are presented in a bill, I think he will satisfy himself that the production of domestic horse hides for glove purposes is limited practically to one Canadian concern. That was so last year at any rate, or was so represented to us by those who apparently spoke with a good deal of authority, namely the glove interests of the country, because the item has given everyone a good deal of difficulty. Then the item of these fancy leathers used for women's fancy shoes caused a good deal of difficulty, and the same is true as regards the suede item. Then you get into the heavier class. The calfskins item never caused any trouble, but horse hides have been a constant source of difficulty, arising largely because, on the representations made to us, this commodity is controlled by one crowd who ask just any price they please; they always asked a price which was that at which the commodity could be brought in from abroad with the duty added, the duty from the United States being 20 per cent. Since we have given the intermediate tariff to the United States why should we double the duty on this item?

Mr. DUNNING: The intermediate tariff bore a strange relationship to the general tariff when the one was 7½ per cent and the other jumped to 20 per cent.