

west can be communicated with, the supply they have on hand ascertained, and their prospective market known. The prospective supply is known to all. Just where the pots are located is known. Where they can be dipped is known. And the availability of supplies from Great Britain and Canada can be ascertained within a few hours. The gentlemen concerned who have been presenting this matter went home two weeks ago. I may add that I did not meet them.

The subject is of such pressing importance that the minister should ascertain the facts and communicate by cable with Great Britain before another rise in the price of raw material in the United States makes it impossible for these men to do business at all. It must be borne in mind that the raw material already purchased by other buyers will be profitable to them, because they will sell on a basis of market prices which will give them larger profits than they would otherwise obtain. In other words, those who have had foresight and have been financially able to acquire large supplies of raw material are going to reap a harvest, whereas those who have to purchase at an increased price must either face a loss, if they sell at a price as low as their competitors can afford to do, or sell at a price which their competitors will maintain for the sake of the larger profit that will accrue. That is why I think the matter is important and pressing and that cable communication with the British government is desirable, if the source of supply upon which western Canada relies for its galvanized plates is to be available this year. If it is not, then the other factor must be considered, namely the purchase of the galvanized plates from some other source, and that involves the question of the duty that has to be paid for the completed article as compared with the raw material. If the minister thinks that I was endeavouring to express full certainty about the facts, let me say that I was only pointing out that there are facts which are known to him and should be known to every member of the committee who desires to know them. There is no assumption on my part of knowledge of the facts but rather a statement of them to the committee in order that they may have an intelligent appreciation of the real issue, which is whether or not western Canada shall get galvanized plates at a reasonable price, whether we shall have to import galvanized plates from the United States or some other country, and whether the increased price of the raw material which has come about, insuring to the benefit of those who will be able to sell their products at a high price, is to continue after a reduction of the

tariff for the sole purpose of meeting such a situation. In the case of Indian corn or maize from South Africa we met the situation frankly. Such action was not taken solely by the present government; under similar circumstances, similar action was taken by the preceding government and would, I assume, be taken by any government when appropriate conditions arise. That state of things has now come about; delays are dangerous and will certainly involve increases in prices. Instead of wasting time in trying to find out what the facts are, the minister, knowing what the facts are, should take action so that this condition may not continue.

Mr. DUNNING: Mr. Chairman, it is very helpful to have my right hon. friend's eloquence and forensic ability applied to the task of persuading me to be willing to do something which, I think every member of the committee knows, it would be my natural disposition to do in any event. My reference to full knowledge of the facts relates to this feature: I know that certain Canadian fabricators are getting their supplies to-day from British sources. I know of one Canadian fabricator who is in the position to which my right hon. friend refers. It happens that the large distributor in Winnipeg to whom he has alluded has for years obtained his supplies of galvanized sheets from the one fabricator and is in the difficult position to which my right hon. friend refers. I am not certain that there are not some smaller fabricators in the same position. If that is so, there is considerable merit in the contention.

One must remember two things. One is that the plant which is operating is running twenty-four hours a day—supplying what? Supplying Canadian demand. The second is that several of our largest fabricators of black sheets are securing their supplies at this moment from British sources with which they have had connection for many years.

Mr. BENNETT: Just how many? Let us see what the minister is going to say.

Mr. DUNNING: There are three I could name.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, let us have them. I happen to know some of them. Who are they?

Mr. DUNNING: I do not like particularly to give the names of concerns.

Mr. BENNETT: Why not? It is well known who is in this business.

Mr. DUNNING: My right hon. friend can take that responsibility if he wishes.