

The CHAIRMAN: Then the hon. member will have to withhold his amendment until we reach subsection 6, because the right hon. leader of the opposition has asked that we discuss this clause subsection by subsection. We are on paragraph (a).

Mr. HEENAN: As I have to leave the chamber at six o'clock, I should like my amendment to be taken into consideration when subsection 6 is under discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee may allow subsection 6 to be discussed now.

Mr. BENNETT: There is no point in departing from the rules.

The CHAIRMAN: In that case the amendment is out of order at the present time. We are on paragraph (a).

Mr. HEAPS: I would suggest to the mover of the amendment that it might apply to paragraph (f).

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, when you reach that subsection, but at the request of the right hon. leader of the opposition it was understood that we should take the clause subsection by subsection. The committee is discussing paragraph (a).

Mr. GUTHRIE: We finished paragraph (a).

Paragraph (a) agreed to.

On section 4, subsection 1, paragraph (b)—production.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I beg to move:

That subsection (b) be amended by inserting the word "efficient" before the word "production" where it occurs in the first and last lines of the clause.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is the purpose of the amendment?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The object is to show that the production must be of a high and efficient standard.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Window dressing.

Mr. RINFRET: I submit that the amendment will only make more difficult the fact finding duty of the commission; for surely efficiency is not a question of fact, it is a question of opinion.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I think it is just as well to emphasize efficiency.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Oh, yes. Carried.

Mr. BUTCHER: I think there are two objections to be raised to this particular subsection, which reads:

In respect of goods produced in or imported into Canada the board shall, under the direction of the minister, make inquiry as to (b) the cost of efficient production in Canada and elsewhere, and what increases or decreases in rates of duty are required to equalize differences in the cost of efficient production.

My first objection to this subsection is that it is really impossible of performance; my second is that it confers powers that I believe even the Minister of Finance himself does not intend to confer upon the board. He has told us that it will not be within the province of this board to make recommendations or suggestions or deductions or to draw inferences, but that it shall find facts only. In my opinion the real effect of this particular subsection is to do even more than that. It gives the board power to make decisions of far-reaching importance. I believe it will not be very hard to prove what I say, for no matter how exhaustive the search, or how diligent the inquiry, it will be impossible to establish any one figure as the cost of production either in Canada or elsewhere, because the costs will vary in different countries, in different parts of the same country, in different plants in each country, and at different times in all of the plants in each country. I believe that has been proven by the tariff commission of the United States, a body which has been referred to so often during this debate, and I desire to quote from one of their reports made in 1919. I admit that is a long time ago, and I remember the Prime Minister told us they have a new board now, but I believe the board at that time had the same instructions as the board of to-day has—to find facts. Well, they set out to find facts in many cases, and I believe they came to the conclusion that it was next to impossible to establish any one figure as the cost of production even in the United States, let alone in other countries. I am bearing in mind what the Prime Minister told us the other night about the establishment of the cost of producing edible gelatin in Holland. I believe I am correct in saying he told us there was only one plant in Holland making edible gelatin—

Mr. BENNETT: One important plant.

Mr. BUTCHER: —and that that plant had an agency in New York. I conclude it would be comparatively easy under those circumstances to discover the cost of producing edible gelatin. Then I think he referred to the inquiry into the cost of producing maple