

Mr. ILSLEY: Is any nitrate of soda mined in the British Empire?

Mr. RHODES: No.

Mr. ILSLEY: Then that will dispose of that argument.

Mr. RHODES: They can manufacture it.

Mr. COOTE: Perhaps we can find out the importations of this article and whence they have come.

Mr. RHODES: The imports last year under the whole item, that is the parent item, amounted to \$1,413,000, of which \$1,086,000 came from the United States, \$106,000 from Chile, \$100,000 from Germany and \$66,000 from the United Kingdom. That includes all the sodium.

Mr. COOTE: Would the minister now give us the importations of nitrate of soda by itself? Was the bulk of the importations from Chile?

Mr. RHODES: Our imports for 1932 from Chile were 48,515 hundredweight, valued at \$106,000.

Mr. BOUCHARD: I endorse every word that was said by my hon. friend from Hants-Kings. We have been told so often that this government was going to make the tariff work for the farmer. I really do not see how it is working for the farmer. It does not work for the farmer with respect to butter or bacon, and it works against the farmer on sulphate of copper and on nitrate of soda. Nitrate of soda is a very important fertilizer which our farmers have been trained to use, and the funny thing about this duty, Mr. Chairman, is that there is practically no nitrate of soda produced in the United Kingdom. From the United Kingdom last year we received only \$919 worth; from the United States \$477,154; from Chile \$106,156; from Belgium and Germany very little. What is the minister's explanation for taxing the farmer on this very essential fertilizer when practically none comes from England?

Mr. RHODES: The answer I would give to my hon. friend is this, that it is not anticipated that the farmer will pay any more for this commodity.

Mr. CASGRAIN: How do you know?

Mr. RHODES: It remains to be seen. I may be quite wrong. If the price were increased as a result of the preference my [Mr. Rhodes.]

hon. friend's argument would be well founded, provided the farmers wish to use this commodity in its natural state; but if they use it in a mixed form, they pay no duty.

Mr. BOUCHARD: It means that they must pay the duty or manufacture it themselves.

Mr. RHODES: No, they can mix it themselves. They can mix it with sand if they wish to do so. My hon. friend's argument would hold good if the price were increased as a result of this arrangement.

Mr. BOUCHARD: It cannot be otherwise.

Mr. RHODES: I cannot agree with my hon. friend.

Mr. CASGRAIN: How do you know that the price will not be increased?

Mr. RHODES: That remains to be seen. We have made this agreement, and we disagree as to its results on this particular item. I believe I am right; my hon. friend thinks he is right; a year hence we shall know which is right.

Mr. YOUNG: If at the end of a year you find that the price is increased, what can you do about it?

Mr. RHODES: My hon. friend knows the answer himself. It will be just too bad.

Mr. YOUNG: You cannot do anything about it. Who asked for this legislation?

Mr. RHODES: The same answer holds as I have given with respect to other items. This item was a result of the negotiations. It was one of the items which was—

Mr. HOWARD: Slipped over.

Mr. RHODES: No. It was an item agreed to by the representatives of the mother country and of Canada. It was not placed in the agreement at the instance of any Canadian industry. It was not placed here for the purpose of affording protection to a Canadian industry.

Mr. YOUNG: It must have arisen spontaneously. No Canadian industry asked for it, no British industry was interested in asking for it, but yet it is here.

Mr. RHODES: I cannot accept my hon. friend's ipse dixit. He says that no British interest asked for it. They may have approached the British delegation. We were not dealing with British industries, but with