

Mr. KEMP: I wonder if it would not be possible to leave that question for a few minutes, because we are having a statement delivered here during the course of the morning.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: We will revert to that question when the statement comes, Mr. Kemp.

Mr. MCKINNON: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I might say a few words of a general nature before dealing with that question; it might be of interest to the committee. Up to the present time the committee has seemed anxious to obtain information regarding the concessions that Canada secured in other countries, rather than as regards concessions that may have been made in Canadian tariffs. I think this is the fifth sitting, and my recollection is that most of the previous sittings related to concessions secured by Canada in other countries. Senator Ballantyne, if I remember correctly, did on two occasions suggest that he would like to know something about the reductions that are proposed in the Canadian tariffs.

May I point out that the Canadian tariff as it stands today is easily one of the most complicated in the world. I am of course referring to its structure. For example, where the United States will have one rate on a given commodity applicable to all the countries of the world, we may have in our tariff at the one time as many as five different rates on one and same commodity.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: Is that brought into effect by regulations?

Mr. MCKINNON: No, this is statutory, Senator Beaubien. It arised from the fact that in the first place we have in many cases agreements with various units of the British Commonwealth, granting them on "x" commodity certain rates of duty. Applicable to the other parts of the commonwealth, to whom that particular agreement does not apply, we have what is called the British Preferential Tariff. That makes two rates. Applicable to other nations with whom we have made most favoured nation agreements of a reciprocal nature, we have a most-favoured-nation rate of duty. I am still talking about one commodity. Then, applicable to certain countries with whom Canada has had no serious rupture in relations, but who are not favoured nations, we have what is called the rate under intermediate tariff. And then we have finally the fifth column, the general tariff, which is, if I may use the word, punitive tariff, applied to countries with whom Canada has no relations of any kind that warrant better rates than are shown in the general tariff. Now, I am merely pointing that out because of the fact that, if any member of the committee should ask me what is the present rate, or what was the former rate, very often I might have to say, "Well, do you mean the British preferential rate; or the most-favoured-nation rate; or the Geneva rate?" and so on.

Hon. Mr. McKEEN: Is there not another question in addition to that, namely what the article happen to be used for?

Mr. MCKINNON: That is true. I was trying to talk about a given tariff item, senator.

Hon. Mr. McKEEN: Well, the same article may be used for more than one purpose.

Mr. MCKINNON: Sometimes there are two different items which refer to the same commodity according to the purpose for which it is to be used.

Hon. Mr. McKEEN: In addition to that, it may be under two different classifications?

Mr. MCKINNON: Yes, it may be of a class or kind made in Canada, or of a class or kind not made in Canada.

Hon. Mr. McKEEN: Or it may be a length of brass, or it may be a whistle.

Mr. MCKINNON: I am merely pointing out that the structure of our tariff is exceedingly complicated.