

Mr. BAXTER: It was passed only two years ago, and I would have thought that considering the facility with which the dumping clause could be applied and could be withdrawn, it would be applied again. It would rather commend itself to the government in connection with the preferential tariff. It really seems impossible for me to understand why, for the very small trade which would take place with Samoa, for instance, that you would require all the efforts of the combined governor in council to extend or withdraw the preferential rate, while you could have the trade relations of Canada with the entire world affected by the simple dictate of the Minister of Customs.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I agree with the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Baxter) that it is pretty hard to understand. There is a lot more of it that is hard to understand. You require to have an order in council to extend the leave of absence of a clerk, but you can switch the rates of duty on natural products up and down under the act of two years ago, or you can switch it up and down under the dumping clause under the act of 1907 by the mere will and caprice of a minister.

Mr. McMASTER: I think the hon. member voted for it when it was before the House.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I was not in the House when it was passed.

Mr. McMASTER: Oh, yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is the natural products provision. I protested against it, but it was a question between that and making desolation of the Okanagan, and I had to take the best I could get. Sometimes when we have an incompetent government we have not a very good choice. Is there anything in these resolutions not included

4 p.m. in the resolutions presented to the House at the time the budget was introduced and the various amendments that have followed to date?

Mr. ROBB: There were three resolutions presented, were there not? April 10th, April 14th, and April 30th, I think. They are all in here, I understand.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We have had only three budgets, besides two dumping clauses. Outside of these three changes, is there anything else? Have the new series of changes started yet?

Mr. ROBB: No.

Mr. CRERAR: They are all in the right direction.

[Mr. Robb.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is what they say down in Almonte.

Resolution agreed to.

2. Resolved, That it is expedient to amend The Customs Tariff, 1907, by adding at the end of section five thereof as enacted by chapter forty-two of the statutes of 1923 the following proviso:

Provided that in computing the ad valorem rate of duty on tea purchased in bond in the United Kingdom, the value for duty shall not include the amount of the customs duty payable on tea for consumption in the United Kingdom.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Can the minister tell us what the duties on tea are today, and what the effect of the remission of duties will be?

Mr. ROBB: It will be seven per cent preferential, ten per cent intermediate and ten per cent general.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That is not answering the question. What duties are collected under the law as it now stands, and what will be the duties under this resolution? That is a matter of value and not of amount.

Mr. ROBB: This is to enable them to get ten per cent off the rate.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The English duty is ten per cent, is it?

Mr. ROBB: No, under the resolution of last year tea of a certain price entering Canada was not entitled to the ten per cent reduction. My hon. friend will remember that a full ten per cent was introduced last year on goods coming into Canadian ports. Under the tariff as applied in Great Britain, it deprived Canadians of the benefit of that ten per cent. This is to make it clear, and provide for it.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I do not think the minister is properly instructed in connection with that. This has only to do with the question of teas purchased for Canada by Canadian purchasers from England. The ordinary law is that the value would be based upon the value of the tea in Great Britain. The change that is made has nothing to do with seven, eight, five or any other per cent. This change is reducing the value of that tea for Canadian customs purposes, as shown by the minister's own resolution, by the amount of duty paid in England. I want the concrete information as to how the change works out on a pound of tea.

Mr. ROBB: It will depend upon the value of the tea. My hon. friend must understand that under the resolution last year, certain tea entering Canada was not entitled to this ten