

Mr. LENNOX. Then if the exporter from the United States or the importer desires it, he could have them marked and the result would be that there would be no protection at all to the Canadian cement manufacturers because these bags could have become nationalized as the minister has said and become a recognized means of carrying goods from the United States to Canada. Once they are identified they will not have to be identified again, and if a bag makes a hundred trips we get only the one hundredth part of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent duty on each trip.

Mr. PATERSON. Do you think they will stand 100 trips?

Mr. LENNOX. That is probably an extreme illustration but they will stand enough to render the duty merely nominal. What is to prevent the minister, if he is sincere in his conversion to the protective doctrine, from dealing with this in a straight forward and clear way and saying that if cement is imported from the United States in bags it shall pay a certain specific duty. It seems to me that in this matter the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Customs have not been in harmony in entering upon the question and have been aiming in different ways. I do not think the Minister of Finance appreciated until the Minister of Customs explained it, that this manner of marking and identifying existed.

Mr. FIELDING. I am afraid my hon. friend will have to reconstruct the cement manufacturers because they have represented that the absence of duty on the bag is a serious disadvantage to them and we have removed it at their own suggestion. I have no doubt they would be much pleased to have a certain amount of duty. I do not know what my hon. friend would regard as a fair duty. If he makes an examination he will find that the duty on cement to-day is a pretty stiff one.

Mr. TAYLOR. Will the minister say that when he explained this matter to the cement manufacturers they were satisfied? Did he explain that the bags only paid duty once and that if they made a hundred trips there would only be one duty paid?

Mr. FIELDING. I did not explain anything to the cement manufacturers: I did not suppose I could teach them their own business, and as they are a particularly intelligent class of people, judging by the deputation which favoured me with a call, I imagined they knew the general law respecting packages.

Mr. LENNOX. It is quite evident something will have to be reconstructed. The Minister of Finance said he expected the duty would be paid on every occasion the bag was entered, and there is no reason to believe that the cement manufacturers understood otherwise. I agree with the Min-

ister of Finance that cement manufacturers understand their own business but the Minister of Finance did not understand himself that this rule would be invoked by the Minister of Customs. The only way to afford any reasonable protection is to charge the duty on the bag every time. The Minister of Finance wanted to know if I would reconstruct something. Well, we have reconstructed the whole cabinet on the principle of protection; they are not all we desire yet but we hope to reconstruct them on this question so that we may have protection in fact as well as in name.

Mr. TELFORD. I understand that the cement manufacturers are satisfied with this provision, and I do not believe that there is a bag that comes back from the United States more than three times at the very outside.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I am afraid the hon. gentleman (Mr. Telford) is more cemented to his party than he is to his business. As a practical man he must know that a bag will stand more than three trips.

Mr. TELFORD. I said the bags would not come back from the United States more than three times, and I do not believe that even when they are sent to Canadian points they come back to our factory more than five or six times.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I have handled cement but I have also capital invested in the industry and I know it needs protection. Whether this tariff change gives it protection or not, it is going to place the matter in very great uncertainty and cause a great deal of inconvenience. The government ought to now declare whether they will charge  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents on each bag as it comes in and every time it comes in, or whether that charge is only going to be during the life of the sack. Some sacks will last 100 trips, others may not last five trips and some will be damaged the first trip. I understand the Minister of Customs to say that he proposes to have a custom mark on every bag for identification. An ordinary car will contain 100 barrels which represents 400 bags, and there were imported into Canada last year 780,000 barrels which in round numbers would be 3,120,000 sacks.

Mr. FIELDING. Was it all imported in sacks?

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I do not think that any English, German or Belgian cement comes to Ontario, and the American cement is almost entirely imported in sacks. According to the Minister of Customs you would have 3,120,000 sacks to be marked and that will need a great deal bigger staff than you have now. The Minister of Customs cannot be serious when he says that each one of these 10 cent sacks is going to have an identification mark put on it. A man cannot go through a car and mark the