

"When is Major Wilmot expected to make his report to the government?" Mr. Hadow was asked.

"Our information," the first secretary replied, "is that Major Wilmot was in Ottawa on April 26 and made his report then to the Minister of National Revenue."

"What about the minister's statement that no complaints have been received from British manufacturers for some months past?"

Withold Direct Complaints

"That is easily explained," Mr. Hadow rejoined promptly. "The British manufacturers were told by this office that the question was being investigated by an agent of the Canadian government and were directed to make all their representations to him. Thereafter, in order not to prejudice the situation nor to embarrass the Canadian government, all direct complaints to the Canadian government were withheld until Major Wilmot completed his enquiry. But, while no complaints may have reached the Canadian government during this period, as Mr. Robb informed the house, at the same time a continuous stream of complaints was reaching the government's investigator in the old land. Not until May 2, after this office was informed Major Wilmot's report had been made to the government, was any further complaint addressed direct to the Canadian government. On that date, however, this office, in a communication to the government, reaffirmed its previous objections to the new regulations and stated that already British export trade was suffering severely from the impossibility of complying with the regulations which were put into effect on February 1 last.

In view of this statement, I think it was a little unfair for the minister to speak as he did on May 7, unless this had not come to his notice. The article proceeds:

"Major Wilmot, in making his investigation, visited Manchester and other British industrial cities; he interviewed many manufacturers, and met many representatives of the British federation of industries; he was afforded every opportunity of visiting British factories to see for himself the difficulties under which the manufacturers are operating in attempting to comply with the new regulations."

"What about Mr. Robb's observation that Sir William Clark had to frankly confess that Great Britain does not comprise all of the British Empire?"

Sort of Suggestion

"That seems to be a suggestion that British manufacturers could use more Empire materials if they wished," Mr. Hadow concluded. "After careful investigation, British authorities were persuaded that certain types of short staple cotton used for certain manufacturers at present exported to Canada were not obtainable in commercial quantities in the British Empire, and that the new regulations, despite the utmost readiness of the British manufacturers to comply as far as possible in the interests of inter-imperial trade, will result in the exclusion of a large quantity of British goods from Canada."

May I read two letters I have received since the date of this debate? These letters are from representatives of British firms in Canada, one being from Messrs. Sproul, Smith & [Mr. Campbell.]

Co., manufacturers' agents, 33 Melinda street, Toronto, Canada, dated Thursday, May 9, 1929:

Milton N. Campbell, Esq.,
Member of Parliament,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Sir: I beg to refer to the statement attributed to Hon. Jas. A. Robb, Minister of Finance, in the House of Commons on the 7th instant regarding the 50 per cent British labour and/or material requirements for United Kingdom goods entering the Dominion.

If he has been correctly reported I understood him to have stated as follows:

"Not long ago an official of the Department of National Revenue was sent to England to investigate complaints by British manufacturers that the new regulation would work a hardship upon them. Since he left we have heard no more complaints, and we have had no evidence that the British manufacturers cannot comply with the 50 per cent requirement."

"I will repeat that an official of the Department of National Revenue went to England to investigate and that he is now on his way home. Sir William Clark told us that some raw materials were not obtainable in Britain, but had to confess frankly that Great Britain did not comprise all of the British Empire. Australia imposes a requirement of 75 per cent, New Zealand 50 per cent, and even Great Britain imposes a requirement of 75 per cent on certain goods. We do not think it unreasonable to ask that British-manufactured goods seeking the preference from Canada should have 50 per cent of British labour and material."

Permit me as the Canadian representative of one of the largest Lancashire manufacturers of grey cotton goods to profoundly disagree with the above. The assertion that since a representative of the Department of National Revenue was sent to England no complaints by British manufacturers that the new regulation would work a hardship upon them have been received is, in a sense, true, but to my knowledge many complaints have been made to the government by the Canadian representatives of British manufacturers and probably also by some of the British manufacturers themselves, but as these complaints are at present being investigated by the Customs department, it is possible that they were not within Mr. Robb's notice at the time his statement was made.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

MR. CAMPBELL: When the house rose at six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I was reading a letter which I had received from Messrs. Sproul, Smith & Company, manufacturers' agents, Toronto, and I will start in again at the point where I left off when you interrupted me at six o'clock.

The fact that Australia imposes a requirement of 75 per cent, New Zealand 50 per cent, and Great Britain 75 per cent, is beside the point as all of these countries have lists of