

business is the production of bars and rods, which become the raw material of other manufactures, such as the making of wire. Copper bars and rods are the raw material of wire manufacturers. To assist them, these bars and rods were some years ago placed on the free list for the use of manufacturers in their own factories. All these bars and rods are thus imported free. Neither of these copper products is produced in Canada for the reason that our producers are unable to compete with large manufacturing enterprises in the United States. We sympathize very warmly with the desire to have a larger development of the copper industry in the Dominion. Since a duty on bars and rods would probably necessitate increased duties on the manufactures of a number of articles made from copper, we are unwilling to grant aid in that form. We have concluded that if the copper industry is to be encouraged as we would desire, it will be better to deal with it directly in the way of a bounty than by higher duties on that which is the raw material for other factories. I said that a bounty will be regarded by many as a better form of aid than any increase of protective duties. But even a bounty would be objected to with much reason if it were not of a temporary character. Much has been heard in times past of the importance of assisting infant industries. Most folk will be kindly disposed towards the industries while they are in their infancy. But experience has shown that the infant grows up, and when he has attained to all the strength of manhood he is still found clinging to protective duties and claiming that he cannot live without them. A new industry which is to have that kind of experience is not a very desirable one for the country. An industry based upon the natural resources of the Dominion which wants a helping hand at the beginning and is prepared later to rely on its own strength and character is worthy of consideration. We propose to afford a measure of help to the copper industry of Canada on the condition that that help shall take the form of a bounty, that the amount of the bounty shall be held within proper limits and that it shall be reduced from year to year until it is extinguished. We propose to allow a bounty for a period of five years, beginning at 1½ cents per pound and diminishing from year to year until the end of the five-year term. The bounty will apply to copper bars and copper rods manufactured in Canada, from copper produced in Canada, and sold for consumption in Canada, and not to include exports. The privilege now granted to manufacturers to import copper rods and bars for their purposes free of duty will continue. What we desire is that the aid we are giving will enable the Canadian producers to compete as he has not been able to compete before with their American rivals and that they will get a reasonable command of the market. We are placing a limitation of \$200,000 per annum upon this bounty. At the beginning the industry will not earn anything like that. As the time rolls on it will probably earn that much, but when it gets to its highest point it cannot get more than \$200,000 in any one year.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Who is the author of that essay on protection?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Minister of Finance.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

He said: As the Bill simply affirms the principle, and specifies the amount of the bounty, I would suggest that we take the third reading now.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

COMPANIES BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND COMMERCE

Hon. Mr. FOSTER presented the report of the Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill 190, an Act to amend the Companies Act, and moved the adoption thereof.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: I wish to suggest that clause 21 be further amended. Since the Bill was passed by the Committee it has occurred to me that this provision could be very much improved. I do not object to the principle embodied in the clause. We all know that operations in mining are very uncertain; to a certain extent they are a matter of guesswork. A mine may have an appearance of great value, but a month or two later it may be found to be of very little or no value at all, and it is known that under such circumstances the capital of the company, so to speak, is distributed in dividends.

I would like to guard against parties interested in such companies making use of this legislation for the purpose of increasing the market value of their stock, and perhaps selling it at a high price after having distributed a large amount in dividends, which they have pocketed, leaving the purchasers with nothing at all. To guard against that I would suggest that the clause as adopted by the Committee be amended by adding the following:

No such dividend shall be paid unless the announcement thereof is given to the shareholders by letter addressed to each shareholder at his last known address at least two weeks before the date fixed for the payment of said dividend, and unless such notice mentions that such dividend is paid under the terms of this section; and such notice shall have inserted therein the full text of this section.

This is to enable the public to know the nature of the dividend—that it is a dividend paid under this section. It will put the people on their guard, and then they may do what they like.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: Under that proposition, what constitutes a sufficient advertisement in the press? If the notice goes to the shareholders, they all know; but "the press" may be just one inconsequential newspaper.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: I say "to the shareholders or through the press." The company