

Canada in open competition with the Canadian made article, our Canadian manufacturers would manufacture a better engine.

It has been asked where those engines of little duration were manufactured, whether in Ontario or Nova Scotia. I believe the Ontario engine is by far the poorest machine made in Canada, and that the engine manufactured in Nova Scotia is by far the best. The life of an engine, of course, depends entirely on the treatment it receives at the hands of its owner. One might be made to last for ten or fifteen years at the very most, but the average life of the Canadian made engine, is I believe ten years, whereas that of the American made engine would be not less than fifteen years.

Our fishermen have come to a point where they must equip their fishing boats with gas engines. In my constituency we have a very extensive fleet, known as the Caraquet fishing fleet, and the time has now come when these fishermen must equip their schooners with gas engines. The question has often been put by these fishermen: How long will these engines last? And when they were told they would last only eight or ten years at the most, they thought it was a poor business proposition. Then the question of buying American made engines was put up to them, and another objection was made by our fishermen, that the American made engine was by far too expensive because it was struck by a 35 per cent duty. Now with this reduction in the tariff I believe our fishermen will be in a position to buy the American made engines to equip their schooners, so that they can cope with the American fishermen.

It has been stated that our fishermen should not be a preferred class. Why not, when they are suffering more than any other class in this country on account of the high tariff of the United States? Then again it might be stated that a high tariff is a good thing to protect the fishermen. I say not. In 1922, in the month of September, I think, I reached the New York market with four carloads of fresh fish. I had shipped them with a view to dodging the Fordney tariff. Unfortunately the fish were shipped in bond, and when they arrived in New York I was called upon to pay a tariff of 2 cents a pound. I went down on the fish pier to see if these fish could not be sold, and while I had to pay a duty of 2 cents a pound, the American fishermen were dumping the same class of fish on the same pier in the same fish market, for 1½ cents a pound. That clearly demonstrates that protection after all does not protect the producer, but is simply a tax on the consumer.

[Mr. Robichaud.]

Mr. LADNER: I wanted to ask the minister, or perhaps the hon. member for Cape Breton South and Richmond (Mr. Kyte), if he could give me information in the first place as to what the duty on engines is today?

Mr. ROBB: I gave that information to the committee earlier in the afternoon, but perhaps my hon. friend was not here then. The hon. member means the engines that are now under consideration?

Mr. LADNER: Yes.

Mr. ROBB: Prior to the date of the presentation of the budget the rates were: 15 per cent, 25 per cent and 27½ per cent. The new rates are: 10 per cent, 12½ per cent and 15 per cent, and as a concession to the manufacturers we are giving them a rebate of 50 per cent on certain raw materials that enter into the manufacture of these engines.

Mr. LADNER: Now could the minister, or the hon. member (Mr. Kyte), tell us how much an engine costs?

Mr. KYTE: It depends entirely upon the horse-power.

Mr. LADNER: Well, one with the customary horse-power?

Mr. KYTE: From \$200 to \$400.

Mr. LADNER: And the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Snowball) informs us that a good engine will last sixteen years. Now that engine may be bought in Canada or in the United States, and there is compensation in either event. If bought in Canada the engine will have been manufactured here. If bought in the United States we shall have the revenue from the duty and we need the revenue. I think the Acting Minister of Finance will agree with me in that.

Mr. ROBB: Yes, I will agree with the hon. member in that.

Mr. LADNER: Now 25 per cent of \$300—taking the central figure of the three which the hon. member gave—would be \$75. It is proposed to reduce that by \$37.50. Hence the reduction that will be given to the fishermen if you distribute the \$37.50 over a period of ten years will be \$3.75 per year. That will be the amount which the fishermen will contribute to the tariff revenue of this country. On the other hand there is the desirability of retaining in the country all the industries to which the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens) referred. Now, to what extent—taking the complete operations of the fishermen for a period of ten years—