

901,000; October, \$2,677,000; November, \$2,378,000; and December, \$2,387,000. There is practically no difference as between the months that followed the increased preference and the months that immediately preceded it.

Now we come to 1923, the first five months of which come under the first preference. What do we find? We find the following figures: January, \$2,652,000; February, \$2,924,000; March, \$3,777,000; April, \$2,281,000; and May, \$2,175,000. Now we come to the second increase in the preference, and what do we find? Here are the figures: June, \$2,504,000; July, \$2,986,000; August, \$3,362,000; September, \$2,780,000; October, \$2,381,000; November, \$1,945,000; and December, \$1,828,000. From these figures honourable gentlemen will see that the importations from Great Britain under the preferences granted have hardly altered.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Then what is the advantage of increasing the preference if the effect is to reduce the revenue of Canada under those conditions?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Now I will give the total figures for those two years. The total imports from Great Britain in 1922 were \$29,905,768; in 1923, under the second preference, they were \$31,600,856. From these figures honourable gentlemen will see that the difference was very slight indeed, and it practically represents the decrease in importations from the United States. That being so, we have hardly any change in the importations under those two heads during those two years, except that we have transferred our clientele from the United States to Great Britain.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: But you have lost in the collection of duty.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not see that we have lost any considerable amount of duty. There was a slight increase in the importations, but the result has been to increase our purchases from Great Britain to about the same proportion that we decreased our purchases from the United States.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Has the preference had the effect of decreasing the cost of woollen articles?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would say that the effect was to decrease the cost to the consumer not only of the goods thus imported but of the goods manufactured in Canada, because the competition from outside makes it necessary for the producer here to reduce his price in order to maintain his sales.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: But, as a question of fact, had the preference that effect?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have no data on that score, but, reasoning logically, I would judge that it would produce that result.

Now, the imports of similar goods from the United States in 1921 amounted to \$5,081,040; in 1922 to \$3,195,958; in 1923 to \$2,561,314. This bears out what I said a moment ago, that the decrease in importations from the United States just about corresponds with the increase in importations from Great Britain.

I would like to elaborate this point a little further, giving some details, and examining some special items. I will take the item of "overcoating, tweed, women's dress goods unfinished, and serges." In 1921 there were imported 6,509,587 yards, at a value of \$8,351,920. In 1922 there were imported 10,876,404 yards, at a value of \$11,112,458. In 1923 there were imported 10,377,817 yards, at a value of \$10,685,894. There was a smaller importation in 1923 than there was in 1922.

Cassimeres, clothes, doeskin, etc.—of these I have not the quantities, but I have the values. In 1921 these goods were imported to the value of \$1,116,996; in 1922, when the first preference came into effect, to the value of \$1,521,268; and in 1923, when the second increase in the preference was established, \$1,621,657.

Now I take "socks and stockings." In 1922 the imports amounted to \$2,165,938, and in 1923 to \$2,379,887.

All these figures indicate that there has not been a very considerable increase all told, and that in certain lines there was none.

In that connection I may say that neither was there a decrease in the number of men employed by the woollen manufacturers of this country during 1923. I have a statement for that year which shows the average number of men employed in 30 manufactories of woollen cloths and yarns. I will not give all of them, but will simply give the monthly average, which in 1922 was 4,052 and in 1923 4,144. This shows that there was not any appearance of a slackening off of the work of these manufacturing establishments.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Have you a list of the factories that have been obliged to close up and go out of business?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: A certain number have not maintained themselves, but it would be interesting to have a statement covering a number of years. Undoubtedly in 1922 and 1923 a certain number of these institutions were running behind, but in order to see what has been the situation of the