

*Ways and Means—Customs Tariff*

Mr. RALSTON: Under what old item?

Mr. RHODES: The old item will be the same.

Mr. RALSTON: What number?

Mr. RHODES: The new item is 81b. Then, peach trees, including June buds, are at the present time 2 cents, 2½ cents and 3 cents. The new rates are free, 5 cents and 6 cents. Under the present item 82, grape vines, gooseberry, raspberry, currant and rosebushes, are shown at 12½, 17½ and 20 per cent. The new rates on grape vines, gooseberry and currant bushes, item 82a, are free, 2 cents and 2½ cents. It will be observed that under the intermediate and general rates there has been a change from an ad valorem to a specific duty. Then 82b includes raspberry, loganberry and blackberry bushes, upon which the present rates are 12½ per cent, 17½ per cent and 20 per cent. The new rates will be free, one cent and one cent. In respect to the new item 82b, the present rates under item 711 are 15 per cent, 25 per cent and 25 per cent, and the new rates are free, one cent and one cent.

Mr. RALSTON: Does the new item apply to specific articles, or is it the same general item?

Mr. RHODES: It deals with rhubarb roots. Then 82c includes asparagus roots and strawberry plants. The present rates are 15 per cent, 25 per cent and 25 per cent and the new rates are free, one-quarter cent and one-quarter cent.

Mr. RALSTON: What is the number of the old item?

Mr. RHODES: The same as the last one, 711. Then, rosebushes, 82d, now found under item 82, are shown at 12½ per cent, 17½ per cent and 20 per cent, and the new rates are 1½ cents, 3 cents and 7 cents. On trees, shrubs and vines, commonly known as nursery stock, the present rates are 12½ per cent, 17½ per cent and 20 per cent, and the new rates are 12½ per cent, 17½ per cent and 30 per cent. That covers the complete list.

Mr. RALSTON: These changes are all proposed to be made as a result of reports by the tariff board?

Mr. RHODES: Yes; I have the report of the tariff board which I shall table as soon as we are in the house. Perhaps I had better table the resolution at the same time.

Mr. RALSTON: When was the report brought down, or made?

[Mr. Rhodes.]

Mr. RHODES: I have had it a few days, but my hon. friend will realize it would be impossible to bring it down prior to the moving of the resolution itself.

Mr. RALSTON: The report was not down at the time of the budget?

Mr. RHODES: No; it has been in my hands only a day or two.

Mr. RALSTON: I understand the minister will not deal with these items in detail tonight.

Mr. RHODES: No, I am quite content that they should stand until the next sitting.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stirling): Shall the item carry?

Mr. RHODES: The effect of item 99e is really to lower rather than to increase, because at the present time under the wording of the item the duty is charged upon the heavy wooden box containers in which the dates are packed. Under the amended proposal the only package which will be included with the weight of the dates for duty purposes will be the cardboard cartons contained inside. The general effect is to lower.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—117. Halibut livers, fresh: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, free; general tariff, free.

Mr. RALSTON: Can the minister tell us the amount of halibut liver oil manufactured in Canada, and what amount is consumed in Canada? In other words, do we manufacture enough for our own consumption?

Mr. RHODES: I am sorry I am not in a position to give that information because up to the present time this item has not been segregated and there has been no opportunity to give the figures for which the hon. member has asked. I am informed, however, that the use of halibut liver for purposes comparable to the uses heretofore made of cod liver is increasing at a very rapid rate, and this free entry will enable the production of halibut liver oil in Canada. It will enlarge the opportunity. I think perhaps the hon. gentleman who sits to my hon. friend's immediate left (Mr. Hanson, Skeena) will be able to give far better information in that respect than I can.

Mr. RALSTON: Will the minister allow this item to stand?

Mr. RHODES: Certainly.