

certainly his actions belie his words. Ever since this government has been in office it has increased duties against Great Britain on commodities Great Britain could sell to us. He forgets or ignores entirely the fact that when the Liberal party was in office it was aiming at a fifty per cent preference for Great Britain. That is something the minister failed to mention. The government opposite destroyed that objective the minute they were permitted to take office destroyed it completely—and now they have the audacity to stand up in the committee and state that the Liberal party wanted only to trade with foreign countries. Hon. gentlemen opposite are responsible for placing obstacles in the way of trade with Great Britain, and today the Canadian people are suffering in consequence of that very action. That is the position in which they have placed Canada, and it is to that attitude on the part of the government, reflected so definitely in these schedules, that we are objecting.

Mr. RHODES: This discussion originated out of a complaint on the part of the leader of the opposition to the effect that we had increased the duty under the general tariff by fifty cents and under the intermediate by seventy-five cents in connection with the item dealing with ingots, forgings, and so on. Let me point out to him and to the hon. member for West Edmonton, who has spoken with unusual warmth, even for him, that they are beside the mark in their statement of facts.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Not much.

Mr. RHODES: When the statement is made that under the Liberal regime the then government was aiming at a fifty per cent preference for Great Britain, hon. members on this side of the house are forced to the conclusion that the Liberal party must have been very bad marksmen. I have in my hand the celebrated Dunning budget, in connection with which, although it is not generally realized, there were very substantial increases in duties not only under the intermediate and general tariffs, but against Great Britain herself. Those increases were made on important items, imports which under normal conditions would involve large sums of money.

The leader of the opposition has complained, on behalf of the poor workingman, that there has been an increase of fifty cents in the general and seventy-five cents in the intermediate rates in the item I have mentioned. Let me point out to him that under item 377a of the Dunning budget respecting "blooms, cogged ingots, slabs, billets, n.o.p., sheet bars, of iron or steel, by whatever process made, n.o.p."

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

the duty against Great Britain was increased from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per ton. Under the intermediate tariff the increase was from \$2.25 to \$4 per ton, and under the general tariff there was an increase from \$2.50 to \$4.50. I ask the right hon. gentleman and those associated with him how he would characterize an increase of that kind, when today he complains that we have increased the intermediate and general rates by seventy-five cents and fifty cents respectively—not by \$1.75 and \$2, as was the case under the Dunning budget.

Then, let us turn to item 377 of the Dunning budget, "ingots of iron or steel n.o.p. per ton" and we find that the duty of \$1.50 against Great Britain was not changed. But, if you please, they increased the intermediate tariff from \$2.25 to \$2.50, and the general tariff from \$2.50 to \$3. There was an increase in that item similar to the one of which he now complains.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What was done with the British preference?

Mr. RHODES: Let us now deal with subdivision (d) of item 379 in the Dunning budget. This part of the item deals with "rods, in the coil, not over .375 inch in diameter, when imported by manufacturers of wire for use exclusively in the manufacture of wire, in their own factories." Under subsection (d) the old intermediate rate was \$3.50 per ton, and the rate under the Dunning budget was \$4.50. The old rate under the general tariff was \$3.50 and under the Dunning tariff it was raised to \$5.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The minister is not telling about the British preferential rate.

Mr. RHODES: The British preferential rate remained the same in connection with the last two items I have mentioned. I am calling attention to the fact, however, that at that time the Liberal party was increasing the duty under the intermediate and general tariff precisely as we are doing today under the item now before us.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: One or two items is very different from one hundred and fifty items.

Mr. RHODES: But I have referred to items in the Dunning budget almost identical with the one now before this committee. The item now under consideration deals with ingots and forgings. From the Dunning budget I read an item dealing with "blooms, cogged ingots, slabs," and so on. I think it only fair to the right hon. gentleman and to the committee that I should indicate these facts,