

I quote again:

The board suggests that it would be advisable and in fact necessary for the furniture manufacturers, particularly in southwestern Ontario, to begin immediately a study of their problems; and perhaps avail themselves of the conference provisions of the Dominion Trade and Industry Commission Act in an effort to preserve the industry and to maintain themselves in their position as important employers of labour in so many towns and villages in southwestern Ontario.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the board's findings are based largely on two considerations, namely: The very wide drop in the protection from 45 per centum to 30 per centum less 10 per centum thus making an effective rate of 27 per centum and what may be called the disorganized state of the industry particularly in southwestern Ontario. These considerations lead to the view that the whole situation ought to be considered again after, say, a period of two years and that any increase granted should be regarded as in the nature of a temporary relief rather than as a final view as to the amount of protection required by the industry.

In other words, does this poor infant industry which has lasted for eighty-seven years without getting on its feet, and without knowing it was decrepit, now realize that if they want to stay in business and give the people of Canada the proper kind of furniture at proper prices they will have to get down to an economical basis? No, they run right back again for more tariff. They seem to think that is the only solution. This budget came down without this change in it, and I voted in support of it. I will still vote in support of the budget without this change. It is rather late in the session to have a report laid on the table of the house embodying a change in the whole principle. I have talked lower tariffs in this house time and time again; I have talked free trade because I believe in it. I do not believe that tariffs can help the industries of this country. Certainly no industry should have a protection of forty per cent or over. If they need that much protection, they are not economical to the country.

I want my hon. friends to read what I have quoted from this report. They will then see that this tariff board, appointed by my right hon. friend opposite, had a most difficult time in finding reasons why the manufacturers of furniture in this country should be given more protection. In order properly to appreciate their minds I think one would have to sit for a time in the fisheries committee, or consult the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid), who knows a great deal about salmon. He would then find that the salmon go out to the sea and come back after four years. They pass through the strait of Juan de Fuca and then come up the

streams of British Columbia. They then continue up to the little stream or brook in which they were originally spawned. This tariff board has had a lot of difficulty. They have had to jump a lot of hurdles, just like the salmon does when he goes back home to spawn.

Mr. BENNETT: He does not spawn.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): My right hon. friend had better talk to the hon. member for New Westminster. I do not think the Minister of Finance had better laugh at that either.

Mr. DUNNING: I know he does not spawn.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): Look it up and see; they all do. The salmon jump the falls and go back to the brooks in which they were spawned. Many of them die. I suggest to hon. members of this committee that there are people who act like salmon. These people should have taken the last hurdle in this country.

Mr. J. A. GLEN (Marquette): Mr. Chairman, I little thought that I would be eulogizing the tariff board as presently constituted, but I think they are entitled to some commendation from those of us who happen to be either free traders or low traders, or whatever you like to call us. This board has given a report to the house along the lines indicated by the hon. member for Huron North (Mr. Deachman). The hon. member has submitted that information should be given to the house before tariffs are fixed and that from the evidence submitted a policy could be evolved with regard to tariffs.

Here we have an industry which is quite vital as far as Canada is concerned, and which no hon. member on either side of the house has any desire to injure. But we find ourselves in this position, evidenced by the report of the tariff board, that an industry which is dying of its own inanition and is uneconomic as far as this country is concerned has to admit, on its own showing before the board, that it cannot and will not prosper under the tariff which is now imposed in its favour.

I do not propose to enter at any length into the figures given by the tariff board in its report, but I should like to indicate the picture as we have it. On many occasions, when speaking on platforms in this country of industries in the east which are battering upon the people of Canada, I endeavoured to give as best I could the evidence upon which such statements were made, and here we have