

Customs tariff—305. Flagstone, sandstone and all building stone, not hammered, sawn or chiselled, and marble and granite, rough, not hammered or chiselled, 12½ per cent.

Mr. DUNNING: There is quite an import under this. The object is to bind the intermediate tariff which at present is 12½ per cent, the general tariff being twenty per cent. Total imports of flagstones, sandstone and all building stone were 59,000 hundredweight from the United States, valued at \$14,000; granite, \$20,000; marble, \$3,000. The total for all items is \$85,000, of which \$38,000 worth was from the United States.

Mr. STEWART: That is for 1935?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes.

Mr. STEWART: How far back can the minister go?

Mr. DUNNING: Our five year record would not help us much.

Mr. BENNETT: This is a rather serious matter. Queenston stone is the competitor of Indiana stone. There is one large building in Toronto constructed of Indiana stone, and there is in Montreal a large financial building built of Queenston stone. The Queenston building cost substantially more than the Indiana stone building. The Indiana stone came in and paid the duty of that day and was laid down in Canada cheaper than the Queenston stone could be obtained. Tenders were called for in Hamilton and London and the question became very acute. What we have done is to reduce the duty by 37½ per cent on that stone, and we have bound it. I should not have so much difficulty if it were not that we have bound it for the period of the agreement by a 37½ per cent reduction, notwithstanding that at twenty per cent substantial quantities of Indiana and other stone from the United States could come in in competition with Tyndall stone, with which this building is lined, and with Queenston stone. Ultimately the contract was let for the Queenston stone, although it actually did involve more money. There was in Quebec a large stone quarry that supplied stone in competition with United States stone coming that long distance. I fear that binding this at a reduction of 37½ per cent will have a serious effect on the stone quarrying industry in Canada.

Mr. DUNNING: The hon. member for Leeds asked for information with regard to imports under this item. In 1931 they amounted to \$250,000. That was before the tariff was increased, I think.

Mr. STEWART: What year?

Mr. DUNNING: That was 1931. The decrease would not reflect there; \$250,000. In 1932 it was \$135,000, in 1933 it was \$16,000 and in 1934 it was \$10,000. I gave the figure for 1935 a moment ago, \$85,000; there was a pick-up.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes; that was in connection with the building program. What was the duty in Canada prior to 1931?

Mr. DUNNING: The general tariff was increased in 1931 from fifteen to twenty per cent, and it now goes back to twelve and a half per cent by virtue of the intermediate tariff.

Mr. STEWART: I am sorry, but I did not catch the statement of the minister if he gave us the rate of duty in the United States on similar products.

Mr. DUNNING: There are several items, some of which are free going into the United States, others of which are fifteen cents per cubic foot, twenty-five cents per cubic foot and sixty-five cents per cubic foot. The item is not really comparable.

Mr. BENNETT: The Queenston stone is really fifteen cents, I think?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes; that is true.

Item agreed to.

At six o'clock the Speaker resumed the chair and the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

CRIMINAL CODE

PROPOSED ABOLITION OF HANGING AS DEATH PENALTY

Mr. J. K. BLAIR (Wellington North) moved the second reading of Bill No. 10 to amend the criminal code (death penalty).

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Explain.

Mr. BLAIR: Mr. Speaker, this is an effort to abolish the process of hanging and to substitute something milder. There is throughout the country a strong sentiment opposed to this method of putting criminals to death. I have very many clippings which, however, I do not propose to read, but reference might be made to some of them in order to give an idea of the way hanging is carried on. This is a coroner who says:

My examination was made, I am informed, fifteen minutes after the body was cut down. At that time life was not extinct.