

Mr. STEVENS: When my hon. friend speaks about an agreement between the Canadian asbestos interests and the members of what he alleges to be a cartel—

Mr. POWER: I was under the impression that negotiations had been entered into between these two groups.

Mr. STEVENS: If there were any such negotiations it was a private matter which for the moment does not come under our cognizance. We do get a preference of ten per cent in the British market—

Mr. POWER: So does Rhodesia.

Mr. STEVENS: And so does Rhodesia, yes. Of course, we could not complain about Southern Rhodesia getting a preference in the British market as well as ourselves; there is no complaint on that score. We are also aware, of course, that in common with many other products, there has been in this instance severe competition from Russian sources. We are shipping some asbestos to Great Britain, but most of our asbestos has gone not to Great Britain but rather to the United States.

Mr. POWER: What quantity do we ship to the United Kingdom?

Mr. STEVENS: The imports into the United Kingdom for the calendar year 1930 are, in long tons:

	Long tons
Soviet Union.. . . . .	577
Italy.. . . . .	127
United States.. . . . .	66
Other foreign countries.. . . . .	266

This gives a total import from foreign sources of 1,033 tons. Then there are imports from the following sources:

	Long tons
Cyprus.. . . . .	1,400
Union of South Africa.. . . . .	6,787
Rhodesia.. . . . .	9,252
Bechuanaland.. . . . .	341
Canada.. . . . .	3,636
Other British countries.. . . . .	209

In other words, there is a total import of 21,625 long tons from empire sources as against 1,033 from foreign sources.

Mr. POWER: It would appear that the only way in which we could improve our position would be to take tonnage from other empire sources. Am I right—with the exception of the odd thousand tons?

Mr. STEVENS: Except in this regard. These figures are for 1930 and the Russian source of supply was just commencing to

develop. Their exports might be expected to increase in the future, so that we have protection against that foreign competition to the extent of ten per cent.

Mr. POWER: I speak again subject to correction, but I understand that the British cartel which I mentioned were forced by the Russians to take a larger proportion of their output, but they did not think it desirable to take any more from Canada.

Mr. STEVENS: I cannot confirm that statement.

Mr. POWER: I want to say a word especially with respect to the timber provisions contained in schedule C, but I should also like before I begin my observations to say that if the expectations of those who hoped that the timber trade would be rehabilitated by this conference and by these trade agreements were not realized, I cannot find that we should blame either this government or the British government, and least of all the Canadian Lumbermen's Association and their chairman, the hon. member for East Algoma (Mr. Nicholson), who during all the time of the conference devoted himself to the interests of the trade which he was asked to represent, and gave good and valuable service. These hopes and expectations were not realized, but I am sure no one can blame him for that.

Possibly I would not have taken part in this debate had it not been for an incident which occurred about ten days ago. I was listening to the radio in an endeavour to obtain some news of the American elections when I heard a voice which seemed to be strangely familiar, although somewhat more assured than usual, that of the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré). He was referring to the conference, and he made the statement that there had been a conspiracy in that the Hon. Mr. Taschereau had sent his observers to Ottawa who had seen the right hon. the Prime Minister every day. The Solicitor General then went on to say in a sarcastic manner that the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) had prayed for the success of the conference. Apparently this was considered by his followers to be more or less of a joke. I do not know whether or not the Solicitor General meant that the hon. member was not in the habit of praying, but in any case his remarks were received with loud applause. As I said before, I would not have paid much attention to this debate had it not been for the fact that names other than my own were brought into the discussion.