

Mr. DUNNING: That is right. It has been a mess.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, and it was proposed to try to have the tariff board straighten it out, but they were busily engaged with other and more important matters and it never went to them. As the item stands now, on this document that is before us, the votes and proceedings, there is no change from our general tariff, but that general tariff was increased only a short time ago—I forget what year it was—to 20 per cent. Horse hide became very important for the manufacture of a particular type of heavy glove in this country. I do not know to what extent it is used, but the representations made to the late government were that it was used not only for making gloves but also for making certain types of garment, to what extent I do not know. As the matter stands now, it is proposed to make the rate for n.o.p. 20 per cent.

Mr. DUNNING: Horse hide is in n.o.p. as the item is printed in the votes and proceedings.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes; that is what I am talking about, as it is printed in the votes and proceedings. Horse hide from the United States would pay 15 per cent, which is 5 per cent less than it paid before, but it is twice what the intermediate rate is, and there are certain countries enjoying favoured nation treatment from Canada that can supply horse hide, but they are some distance away and the transport increases the cost. I submit to the minister, since he is rewriting this item, that 15 per cent is a higher rate than the glove business of the country should stand under the intermediate tariff, in view of the fact that they always found the item to work a great hardship upon them.

Mr. DUNNING: That is, the glove manufacturers?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes; I am talking about them, because this is the raw material of the glove manufacturers. I am dealing now only with the raw material, and our country does not supply sufficient for our requirements.

Mr. DUNNING: Well, very close to it. The importations were very small.

Mr. BENNETT: The reason was that we increased the tariff, according to their contention, too high, thus making the price a prohibitive one when the material was converted into gloves, and they complained very bitterly that they were losing a part of their business because they could no longer continue to manufacture that particular type of glove out of horse hide. That is the reason I say to the minister that I think the rate

could easily stand at the intermediate rate that he originally proposed, namely, 7½ per cent for other than n.o.p. items, the same as sheep skins. If I thought we could supply the necessary horse hide I would not raise the question, but in Canada we do not kill horses; we ship them out. I think, if the minister will look into the matter carefully, he will find that in this country the production of horse hide for glove manufacturing is really negligible.

Mr. DUNNING: Oh, it is definitely growing.

Mr. BENNETT: The point is that we ship the horses out of the country because our people do not take kindly to horse-meat; that is the short way of putting it; there are countries where horse-meat is used, and so has a value; and we have shipped from the country the horses, which of course include the hides, and have to buy back the hides. This is one of the cases in which we have to buy back the raw material for glove manufacturing. In view of the general attitude of the government towards the raw material item, I suggest that this item does not bear close analysis in the light of what has been done with respect to other industries. I think it is only fair to say that the representations made to the late government were that horse hide is produced in only one tannery in this country.

Mr. DUNNING: That is not so now.

Mr. BENNETT: Not so now? Well, if the hon. gentleman will look into the matter he will find that the change has taken place in the last twelve or fifteen months.

Mr. DUNNING: My information is that a number of tanneries which formerly were not engaged in this activity have developed it during the past two years, so much so that, though my right hon. friend may have forgotten it, the glove manufacturers in making their application to the tariff board did so with respect to sheep skin and did not ask for a reduction with respect to horse hide. In going into the matter, I was astonished at this. They made no application for a reduction in duty on horse hide.

Mr. STEVENS: They did not ask for an increase, though.

Mr. DUNNING: They are not getting an increase. Remember their application was with respect to a tariff which was then, with respect to horse hide, twenty per cent under the general tariff, and they did not ask for any reduction with respect to horse hide but