

*French Treaty*

to be compelled to reduce his sales tax on imports to the same level as his sales tax on Canadian manufactured goods.

Mr. FIELDING: I do not think that is the spirit or intention.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I know what the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Chaplin) asked for, and I do not see him in his seat as yet. Would it not be possible for the minister to give the information to the committee? I should especially like an answer to the question regarding cobalt.

Mr. FIELDING: I will first hand the statement to my right hon. friend for his perusal.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: While the right hon. member (Mr. Meighen) is reading that, I might go on to another clause. What is meant by the use of the words "prevention of unfair competition?" Does this in any way imperil the bringing down of the Combines Act or anything of that kind? In Article No. XXI we obligate ourselves to prevent unfair competition.

Mr. FIELDING: That means that any laws there might be as regards unfair competition at home would apply to them as well. We would be on equal terms concerning it. They have in France some special provisions—I do not recall the exact terms at the moment—regarding unfair competition; but if anything were to arise under the Combines Act, this would mean simply that we would treat the French as we would ourselves under similar conditions.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have just had time to make a hurried perusal of this statement. As I read it, the minister has secured nothing as regards certain oxides of cobalt: zaffre, silicious oxide, vitrified oxides, smalt and azure, impure. That is to say they were always free and they are free now, going into France. But on the pure oxides of cobalt there is, under the treaty, an increase of 100; that is to say, the minimum was 350, but this has been increased to 450, which is an increase of about 30 per cent in the duty on pure cobalt going into France. I do not know whether the hon. member for Lincoln would know what our exports consist of; but from what I know of the treaty, I would be willing to take a guess that what we are selling is the real cobalt; that these other things we do not sell.

Mr. FIELDING: I would have to make a special study of the matter if my right hon. friend thinks it is of importance. I under-

[Mr. Meighen.]

stand him to say that there is an increase as compared with the present rates?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Mr. FIELDING: That brings us back to the old question whether we can compare these with the old rates or not.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There is an increase of 30 per cent in the duty on cobalt, which is an important product of Canada. I do not know in what form it is exported, but it is one of our chief mineral products, and it is somewhat serious to have so substantial an increase in the tariff. I think this should have been mentioned in the original details. I would presume the information that is given in this statement as to wheels and tires is taken right out of the details.

Mr. FIELDING: Out of the French treaty.

Mr. MEIGHEN: A slip has been pasted in. If it is not out of the details, nobody can tell what it means.

Mr. FIELDING: The words used are those of the French tariff. Sometimes an item in the French tariff is very comprehensive, and you get only a part of it.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not know what this item No. 214—wheels, tires and so forth—means, because there are no headings to the various columns. If the headings should be the same as in the details, then, of course, I can translate.

Mr. FIELDING: I am sure that is so.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I am sorry that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Lapointe) is not present to-day. I have been pursuing him with the question as to the allegations made in his speech, and I thought I had covered everything pretty well. I was going to see now, after his admission that it was impossible for any hon. member to know from the government returns how much of the silk imports took the 20 per cent duty and how much the 27½ per cent duty, if it were possible to get some information of a definite character as to this most important clause. The hon. gentleman told us that somebody had told him that 90 per cent came in under the 27½ per cent rate and that 10 per cent came in under the fixed rate of 20 per cent. I think the committee is entitled to a little more definite information as to that. I want to find out just exactly how that amount is made up. If we had been given even the common courtesy of being told that Mr. So-and-so knows about this; if the minister had said: "Mr. So-and-so supplied me with this