

present deplorable condition in the potato markets of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

First the action of the Canadian government under Premier Bennett in putting up a high tariff wall against Cuban sugar, causing the Cuban government to retaliate by putting up an impossible barrier against Canadian potatoes, thus losing to Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick one of their most profitable potato markets.

The item proceeds:

He condemned the government for putting a dumping duty on Cuban sugar with the result that Cuban sugar was prohibited from Canada.

I feel that in the interests of accuracy this statement by the hon. member for Prince should not go uncorrected. The facts of the situation pertaining to the tariff on sugar are that the existing duties came into force on April 16, 1926, when a Liberal government was in power. These duties gave effect to the provisions of the Canada-West Indies trade agreement, which was concluded on July 6, 1925, for a period of twelve years, and which was signed on behalf of Canada by the following representatives: Hon. George P. Graham; Hon. James A. Robb; Hon. Thomas A. Low; Hon. W. R. Motherwell; Hon. John E. Sinclair; Hon. P. J. Arthur Cardin.

Schedule A of the Canada-West Indies trade agreement provides for preferences on West Indian raw sugar over raw sugar imported from foreign countries. The preference varies according to the degrees of polarization, but it is provided that in the case of sugar exceeding 95 degrees and not exceeding 96 degrees the preference will amount to \$1 per 100 pounds. This is in respect to tariff item 135, which covers raw sugar, while in respect to item 134 covering refined sugars the Canada-West Indies trade agreement provides that West Indian sugar shall receive a preference of not less than 25 per cent of the duty charged on foreign sugar.

To give effect to the preference on sugar provided for in the Canada-West Indies trade agreement the Canadian duties on sugar were amended and the new rates were brought into force on April 16, 1926. There has been no change in the duties on foreign sugars since that date, so that the hon. member for Prince is inaccurate when he states that the Canadian government under Premier Bennett put up a high tariff wall against Cuban sugar.

Mr. ILSLEY: May I ask a question? That is not what the hon. member for Prince was quoted as saying, I think.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I think so.

Mr. ILSLEY: Did he not say that the government fixed the valuation for duty purposes which had the effect of putting up the duties on refined sugar?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): He is not so reported in the press, and I am answering the press report. In fact, as I have shown, the duties on Cuban sugar have resulted from the trade agreement between Canada and the British West Indies which was concluded when a Liberal government was in power, and even if West Indian sugar should be made free of duty there would still have to be a duty of \$1 per 100 pounds on imports from Cuba of raw sugar ranging between 95 degrees and 96 degrees polarization in order to give effect to the provisions of the treaty.

Mr. ILSLEY: It is a pity that the hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacLean) is not here, but I am familiar with the attitude that he has taken repeatedly on this question, and what he says is that this government by order in council, prior to the change in the Cuban duty on potatoes, made a valuation on refined sugar for duty purposes which had the result of effectively shutting out refined sugar.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): We never imported refined sugar from Cuba; never thought about it.

Mr. ILSLEY: I am not sure about that. The hon. member for Prince is familiar with this whole matter; he has discussed it in the house with the Prime Minister and with the former Minister of Trade and Commerce, and would be anxious to discuss it now if he were present.

Mr. POULIOT: May I ask the Minister of Agriculture what schemes were approved on or before December 31, 1934, in each province, starting with British Columbia first and coming east?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I have given that information.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman, here is the same old story. The minister comes here with his estimates, and we are not seeking to block them at all; we simply want information, and the information I have asked for is most reasonable and pertinent. We have to know what schemes were approved. It is only a very small number, and again I ask the minister what schemes were approved on or before December 31, 1934, and what schemes were approved and have been in