

Mr. FIELDING. It is a convenience both to the public and to the customs.

Mr. FOSTER. It might be well for the minister to look into that.

Mr. FIELDING. I shall. I am advised that 6 per cent would be sufficient for the purpose of preservation; when it runs to 25 per cent it is not a question of preserving.

Mr. FOSTER. Where do these lime juices and fruit juices come from?

Mr. FIELDING. Great Britain, the West Indies, France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland and the United States. The largest quantities come from Great Britain and the United States.

157. Ethyl alcohol, when imported by the Department of Inland Revenue or by a person licensed by the Minister of Inland Revenue, to be denatured for use in the arts and industries, and for fuel, light and power, to be entered at ports prescribed by regulation of the Minister of Customs and Inland Revenue, subject to the Inland Revenue Act and to the regulations of the Department of Inland Revenue, free, free, free.

158. Methyl alcohol, when imported by the Department of Inland Revenue or by a person licensed by the Minister of Inland Revenue, to be used in denaturing alcohol for use in the arts and industries, and for fuel, light and power, to be entered at ports prescribed by regulation of the Ministers of Customs and Inland Revenue, subject to the Inland Revenue Act and to the regulations of the Department of Inland Revenue—per proof gallon, 20 cents; 20 cents; 20 cents.

Provided that the Governor in Council may, by order in council, reduce or abolish the duty specified in this item.

Mr. FIELDING. These are the items relating to denatured alcohol which I explained in the budget speech and which are more or less experimental.

Mr. PERLEY. Why make the ethyl alcohol absolutely free, and the methyl alcohol free only when the Governor in Council wishes to do so, when both articles are for the same purpose.

Mr. FIELDING. The wood alcohol is merely an agent to be used in denaturing. It is made in Canada and if it can be produced and sold here at a rate which enables us to produce denatured alcohol cheaply we have no desire to make it free. If there is difficulty found in obtaining it cheaply in Canada then the Governor in Council has the power to act in the way described.

Mr. PERLEY. Ethyl alcohol is made in Canada also. Why should not the manufacturers of methyl alcohol and ethyl alcohol be treated alike? If they can furnish the commodity at a reasonable price both should be protected.

Mr. FIELDING. Methyl or wood alcohol is used entirely for purposes of denaturing, whereas ethyl alcohol is used for a variety of purposes (some people drink it) and if

it is admitted free for this new purpose it will not injure any one; it will simply be saying that a new trade which may be created shall use it. On the other hand, if you admit the wood alcohol free you are practically setting up an industry in Canada when there is no other purpose for which it can be used except for denaturing.

Mr. PERLEY. I wish to say that in my remarks of yesterday and to-day, I have no animus whatever against the manufactures either of wood alcohol or ordinary alcohol, both of whom are carrying on a trade for the benefit of the country, and I feel that the alcohol itself should be produced in Canada if it can be sold at a reasonable price. Of course, as the minister says, this is a new trade and it would not interfere at all with the ordinary use of alcohol. As I understand it, however, wood alcohol is used for other purposes in the United States, and no doubt its use in Canada will be extended.

Mr. SPROULE. It is used here now for a dozen other purposes.

Mr. FIELDING. Not very largely I am told. What other specific purpose is it used for except denaturing?

Mr. SPROULE. For fuel, for dissolving gums and drugs, and I believe also for making certain kinds of varnishes.

Mr. FIELDING. Is not that the methylated spirits which is practically the denatured alcohol we now make? It is not the wood alcohol itself but the ethyl alcohol treated with a denaturing agent which we now call methylated spirits.

Mr. MILLER. There is manufactured in the United States 10,000,000 gallons of wood alcohol per annum, only a small part of which is used for denaturing; the greater part is used in various lines of manufacturing.

Mr. FIELDING. Its chief use in Canada is for denaturing.

Mr. TEMPLEMAN. The larger quantity of wood alcohol in Canada is used by manufacturers and others.

Mr. FIELDING. Do they not use it as methylated spirits?

Mr. TEMPLEMAN. There is more wood alcohol used than there is methylated spirits, and what our wood alcohol manufacturers are so much alarmed about now is that if we succeed in reducing the price of methylated spirits it will take the place of the wood alcohol, and that business will, as a manufacturing industry, be ruined. That is the position we are up against in trying to produce methylated spirits at a very low price.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the difference between the two?

Mr. TEMPLEMAN. Methylated spirits is a grain alcohol mixed with wood alcohol.