

*Customs Act*

Now, with that off my chest there is something I would like to say in support of the principle of the bill. It is quite clear to everybody that there is a loophole—maybe there are several loopholes—in section 35 of the Customs Act. It has already been pointed out that not only the textile industry suffers in this country. There probably are others, including the agricultural producers in several sections of the country—the producers of small fruits in southern Ontario and southern British Columbia, the vegetable producers in British Columbia and in some parts of the maritimes. These people are suffering from end-of-season dumping and should be given protection, just as well as the textile people.

If anyone will examine the record as to tariffs he will find that there is hardly a single thing we produce in the Dominion of Canada that is not protected by this government—hardly a single thing. They do play favourites when they bring in a bill of this kind. Instead of giving the vegetable and fruit producers some protection, they concentrate on one group—and on that, to the exclusion of all others.

I do support the principle of the bill because, regardless of the quality of some of the producers of textiles to whom my hon. friend from Rosetown-Biggart referred, if we are going to have a textile industry in Canada, and if it is going to be of any value to the country, it will have to be protected. We might as well face it. What we have got to decide is whether we want the textile industry here. We also have to broaden our minds about it and decide whether we are going to have several other industries in this country which are struggling—one of which is the sugar industry, and some others I have mentioned.

There is a whole string of them, and we have to make a decision. I do not uphold the exploitation of labour, of the working people or the consumers in this country by any group of manufacturers. I have no brief for the textile people about whom the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart spoke. But I do say we have to make up our minds, and make them up soon, as to whether we are going to try to have a textile industry in this country. If so, let us be realistic about it and lay down some policies which are in harmony with the facts of the present situation. I support the principle of the bill, but when it goes into committee, if someone does not beat me to it, I am going to propose some amendments, because I think the thing should be broadened to include some other things that need looking after in this country.

**Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte):** In rising to make a few remarks on this bill I want to say at the outset that in my own county there is a very fine branch of the textile industry, and I agree with the greater part of what has been said by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell). The industry that we have means much to the economy of Charlotte county, since we have very few industries there. In so far as dumping is concerned, they have my sympathy and my support, but there are a few things that I myself would like to see cleared up.

Men to whom I have talked, who are engaged in that particular industry, speak of dumping, but the word "dumping" has never yet been defined to my satisfaction. I am informed that that portion of textiles which are manufactured in the United States and sold to the retail market are sold at what they consider in this country to be a fair market value. We must all acknowledge that in the United States wages are as high as or higher than they are in Canada. If these materials that are sold to the retail trade in the United States by that industry are sold at a fair market value, why is the retail price charged in this country from 30 per cent to 50 per cent higher than it is south of the border? That is one thing that I have never had explained to me.

Since it is being sold at a fair market value in the United States, what sort of value would you place on the charges that are being made to the retail trade in this country? These are the things that I would like to understand—and remember there is a branch of that industry in my own county. But I believe that the consuming public certainly must have a little consideration.

I am going to make a statement now that I know to be correct. We have in this country a customs regulation which allows a citizen of Canada to go over the United States border and to stay there for 48 hours, to make a purchase and bring it home duty-free. I am going to be bold enough to say that two-thirds of those engaged in the textile industry, who take advantage of that 48-hour period over the border, bring back the very things that they are manufacturing in Canada. I know that happens down where I live. If my wife goes over the border down to Bangor, Maine, or somewhere near the border, and stays there for 48 hours, I know what she brings back. She brings back textiles.

Tonight the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart mentioned sheets and pillow cases. The figures he put on the record are correct. There is no question about that. You can