

Customs tariff—219. Sulphuric ether and chloroform: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, 25 per cent; general tariff, 25 per cent.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—219c. Non-alcoholic preparations or chemicals, such as are used for disinfecting, dipping or spraying, when in packages not exceeding three pounds each, in weight, the weight of such packages to be included in the weight for duty: British preferential tariff, 5 per cent; intermediate tariff, 25 per cent; general tariff, 25 per cent.

Mr. RHODES: The imports last year under this item were valued at \$25,000, of which \$16,000 came from the United States and \$9,000 from the United Kingdom.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—229. Soap, common or laundry, per one hundred pounds: British preferential tariff, 50 cents; intermediate tariff, \$1.50; general tariff, \$1.50.

Mr. YOUNG: What were the importations under this item, and the Canadian production?

Mr. RHODES: The imports last year were valued at \$560,000, of which \$552,000 came from the United States and \$7,000 from the United Kingdom. The production of soap in Canada was valued at \$9,000,000.

Mr. YOUNG: The figures for laundry soap are not given?

Mr. RHODES: I am sorry to say that the figures are not segregated.

Mr. YOUNG: Could the minister tell us the approximate value per pound? I have figured it as being about 15 cents per pound on the importations; is that correct?

Mr. COOTE: While that information is being looked up, could the minister tell us whether any distinction is made between castile, toilet and other varieties of soap?

Mr. RHODES: The hon. member will observe that the next item deals with castile soap.

Mr. COOTE: Mention is made of common or laundry soap and castile soap, but I was wondering if soaps other than castile are covered by a separate item.

Mr. RHODES: I do not know whether or not my hon. friend has a copy of the tariff before him, but it contains three items dealing with soap. Item 228 covers soap powders, powdered soap, mineral soap and soap, n.o.p., which would include all soap except common or laundry soap and castile soap. Then the next two items cover common or laundry soap and castile soap. Those are the three divisions.

[Mr. Rhodes.]

Mr. COOTE: It is only in connection with common and castile soap that any changes are being made?

Mr. RHODES: Yes.

Mr. SANDERSON: I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It has been stated once or twice that no representations were made by manufacturers in connection with certain items. Were any representations made by Canadian manufacturers in connection with these soap items?

Mr. STEVENS: None whatever.

Mr. YOUNG: Heretofore the duty on soap under the general rate was \$1 per hundred pounds and under the preferential rate 65 cents per hundred pounds, a difference of 35 cents per hundred pounds in favour of the British manufacturer. Even with that preference the importations from Great Britain were negligible. We are increasing the general rate to \$1.50 per hundred pounds, an increase of 50 cents, and decreasing the preferential rate from 65 to 50 cents. However, under the exchange dump something like \$3 will be added to the British preferential, which makes that rate twice as much as the general rate which would apply to the United States. Great Britain was unable to compete when she had a preference of 35 cents, and she will have no possible chance of selling anything under this present arrangement. The only person who will benefit will be the Canadian producer of soap. We are told that he produces \$9,000,000 worth of soap, and I should like to know how much additional we shall have to pay under this arrangement.

Mr. STEVENS: None whatever.

Mr. YOUNG: The minister argues that under this higher rate we will have to pay no more for our soap, but I contend that this arrangement shuts out the United States and will raise the price in Canada.

An hon. MEMBER: Who said so?

Mr. YOUNG: Hon. members opposite said so when they raised the tariff, and I will give the proof. If our Canadian manufacturers had not been taking advantage of the tariff to increase the prices, no American soap could have been sold because the Canadian manufacturer would have been able to undersell the American. However, he raised the price almost to or to the level permitted by the tariff, and because he did so, the American was able to sell in this market. The Canadian manufacturer has taken advantage of