

known protectionist. I am not blaming him for that, but what I do protest against is the government promising one thing and then acting in a contrary manner in the house.

Mr. CAHAN: Before the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Euler) sat down I was going to ask him a question. He spoke of the lack of certainty now in the minds of the British manufacturers. There is no uncertainty now as to the British manufacturer's position. He knows his own costs of material and of manufacture.

Mr. EULER: He has no uncertainty as to where he stands. He knows he must come up to the 50 per cent British content, but he does not definitely know whether we will make any exemptions or not.

Mr. CAHAN: That is, he does not know whether the minister and the government will change their minds in the near future. I intended to follow that up with another question. The minister referred to possible changes. Would the minister state what are the general principles upon which future possible changes will be based? What are the principles which guide the government in making changes of the character under consideration?

Mr. EULER: In general terms I might say anything that we consider to be in the general public interest.

Mr. CAHAN: Of the empire or of Canada?

Mr. EULER: For my part, I would consider Canada first.

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Minister of Finance): May I just say a word regarding this apparently semi-controversial question of the British preference?

The idea of increasing the requirements as to labour and content is not a new one in British countries nor in the countries with which we have trade agreements. The mother country introduced that idea not so very long ago after they introduced their Safeguarding of Industries Act, and with that I shall deal in a moment. Australia, New Zealand and some of the other self-governing dominions also increased their requirements as to British labour and content. Some of the countries with which we have treaty agreements also increased their requirements, but I have yet to learn, indeed, I would be very sorry to learn, that any junior in any of the departments of Canada in any country of the world should attempt through the press or parliament to attack the policy of the gov-

[Mr. Kennedy.]

ernment to which he was accredited. I think we shall get along better and further by reasonable co-operation and going carefully into the merits of each case as represented to us through the proper diplomatic channels. We have succeeded to some extent in improving the Canadian position through that method. I have nothing to add to-night to what was said when the budget was brought down and when we were in committee last session—to what was said by the Prime Minister, by the Minister of Railways and Canals and by the Minister of National Revenue. We recognize that there are some items that may require to be revised, but I admit to this house and to the country that surely it is reasonable that those who are enjoying the British preference should submit evidence that they are entitled to a revision of the 50 per cent requirement.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Might I ask the minister if Australia, Great Britain herself and New Zealand do not publish a list of exemptions?

Mr. ROBB: I am very glad my hon. friend has brought up that question. He has referred to furs and apparently it is a question of Russia against Canada. My colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, has dealt with that.

Mr. CAMPBELL: It is not a question of—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. ROBB: I did not interrupt my hon. friend. He has referred to copper. Now, the difference in our method as compared with that of some other countries is that we widen out the preference to the whole British Empire. We say that these products may come from any part of the empire. Surely my friend will not deny that copper is produced, and will be produced in increasing quantities, in Canada, not only in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario, but also in the province of Saskatchewan whence my hon. friend comes. In that province there are very good prospects of copper development. Copper is produced in large quantities in Rhodesia.

Now, my friend has referred to drugs. That question has been dealt with by the Minister of National Revenue, who has shown that the particular drug which my hon. friend referred to is on the free list anyway and could not be affected by this requirement. Indeed if my hon. friend looks at the tariff he will discover that in regard to drugs not on the free list there is very little difference in the