

before the house on such an important matter as this, which puts together in the statutes of the country men who commit corrupt or illegal practices and men who are tariff board commissioners, there should be an explanation before the vote is taken.

Mr. McINTOSH: I would like to have an answer, Mr. Chairman, from the right hon. the Prime Minister to the question that was asked.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): I had no intention whatever of speaking further on the provisions of this tariff bill. I thought I had put my objections sufficiently strongly during the discussion on the first reading, but when the right hon. the Prime Minister of this country takes the stand that he has taken in reply to the question from the hon. member for North Waterloo I am surprised. I think it is only fair to the members of this house and to the country that he should give a reasonable answer to the question.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I think it is my duty to the electors I represent in this house to protest against the attitude of the Prime Minister. I do not raise my voice very often in this house, but I must say that I feel that the Prime Minister is in honour bound to give an answer to the question that has been properly asked by my hon. friend from North Waterloo. Otherwise, the impression will go abroad that the Prime Minister has something to hide, and that he does not wish to give the answer or meet the wishes of the house.

Amendment (Mr. Gray) negatived.

Section agreed to.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If we are through with the discussion on section 3, might I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we take up the succeeding sections, subsection by subsection, and that the subsections be read?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Might I suggest before we proceed that as the Prime Minister is suddenly stricken dumb, the Minister of Justice should substitute for him.

On section 4, subsection 1—Duties of board.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I move to amend section 4, subsection 1, by striking out in line 2 the words, "under the direction" and substituting therefor the words, "at the request."

Amendment agreed to.

On section 4, subsection 1 (a)—Raw materials.

Mr. HEENAN: Mr. Chairman, the fact that at this time the government has intro-

duced an amendment encourages me to ask whether they will accept another one. Section 4 deals with the duties of the board, and may I say that while those duties are many they do not as yet go far enough. In his discussion of the bill the Prime Minister pointed out that the cost of labour would be quite a factor in determining the rate of duty required. I think the Prime Minister will agree with me however that there are factors greater than the cost of labour. For instance the costs of the reorganization of companies with increased capitalization is one of the great factors. Inasmuch as these are the days of combines, reorganizations and mergers the capitalizations of companies have been greatly enhanced, and inasmuch as the capitalization of a company in a measure affects its earnings and dividends I think the Prime Minister may well agree that these factors may have a much greater bearing on the costs of production than would the labour costs. The Prime Minister, during his discussion of the question, pointed out that such factors as low wages and long hours of labour in certain countries must of necessity be taken into account by the board and subsequently by the government in arriving at a proper tariff against those countries. I was wondering if the tariff might operate in the opposite direction. If the tariff board should learn of some country wherein higher wages were paid, and a higher standard of living prevailed would the duties in Canada be reduced proportionately? That is a matter which at the present time is concerning me because I do not know what the government may have in mind in this connection.

With respect to the labour question however, I have in mind the discussions which took place in the regular session of 1930 and again in the special session of the same year at which time the present Prime Minister pointed out that any protection which was given to any concern in Canada should also carry with it a protection for the labouring men engaged in the industries concerned. I have in my hand one or two articles which, if he has not already read them, may surprise the Prime Minister. I refer first to an article appearing in a newspaper called Labor and particularly to a press despatch from Montreal, Quebec, dated June 25, 1931:

The British American Oil Company's new \$2,000,000 refinery plant, now under construction at Montreal East, is starting out to be a monument to cheap labour.

A "hard-boiled" labour policy has been established—one that has probably never been equalled on a similar undertaking in Canada.

Not only are wages lower than on any other construction job of the same type, but the