

business represent to me that it will be highly inconvenient for them to carry jewellery that is taxable and perhaps other jewellery that is not. The word "jewellery" is intended to cover only articles for the adornment of the person. A watch chain would come within the definition of "jewellery," whereas a watch would not, and jewellers, of course, carry many other lines of goods besides jewellery. For administrative purposes we thought it was better to settle now the amount payable by those liable to the tax, on stock now on hand. That amount when once assessed and paid will be in full settlement of all taxes upon sales made from stock in hand on the first day of May. There may be a possible loss of revenue, but the administrative cost will be much less. Of course, all sales made since the first day of May will be liable to the tax.

Mr. CRONYN: Will the Bill, or the regulations made under it, provide in what way the excise duty is to be paid?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: It will be paid as the goods are sold.

Mr. COCKSHUTT: I would like to ask the minister if he has given any consideration to the question of allowing the preferential rate in favour of tea imports from the British possessions? I have written to him on the subject and received no answer. I was instructed by some persons who were interested to place the matter before him, but I do not know what is proposed to be done, because I did not receive any reply to my communication. I notice that a difference is made in the case of coffee.

A difference is made in coffee which is 5 cents per pound preferential and 7 cents general tariff. I do not see why tea grown in India and Ceylon which are British possessions, and which have been loyal to us in the present war, should not have some little advantage in the tea duties, and I ask the minister if he has given that matter consideration.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I am sorry that my hon. friend has not received an answer from me to the letter which he says he sent me. I may say to him that I have not yet received that letter.

Mr. COCKSHUTT: I sent it four or five days ago.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: In the case of coffee, we are bound to give a preference to coffee grown in the West Indies under the terms of the West Indies agreement so called. Coffee, cocoa and chocolate im-

ported from certain of the West Indian Islands are entitled to a preference of 20 per cent on the general tariff. That is the reason why there is that distinction in tea and coffee so far as preferential rates are concerned. I explained some time ago that a preference is not always given on every commodity grown in the British Empire, and cited the instances of liquors and tobaccos. The imposition of a tax upon tea is purely for revenue, and it was deemed advisable to make the same imposition against British productions as against those of any other countries. However, there is a great deal to be said in favour of extending a preference to British importations. I explained earlier in the evening that such preference would not be of any particular advantage to the tea growers within the British Empire owing to their inability to get shipping to forward it. During the year and before the next session of Parliament, however, I promise my hon. friend that the Government will give consideration to the suggestion.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I wish to move a further amendment to this resolution, and it is in accordance with the notice which I gave yesterday and which now appears upon the Order Paper, and has reference to the tax upon moving picture films. The amendment is as follows:

Resolved, That it is expedient to provide that a war excise tax be levied, collected and paid on all cinematograph or moving picture films, positives one and one-eighth of an inch in width and over of fifteen cents on each film for each day upon which such film is used.

Mr. COCKSHUTT: I draw the attention of the minister to the fact that representations have been made by the smaller moving picture men that the proposed tax is going to put them out of business. It appears to me that, where films are used in very small buildings, where only two or three hundred can be housed at once, these should not be called upon to pay the same rate as houses accommodating two or three thousand. I am not a sponsor for picture shows and rarely attend them, but they are a benefit to many people who desire entertainment at very moderate rates, and the soldier, too, frequents these places very largely. I am not offering this by way of any factious criticism at all upon his very estimable way of raising the revenue, but from representations which have been made to me it appears that the smaller men will be practically put out of business if some differ-