

ing that the government appealed to the country in December, 1921, about a year after this commission, or whatever you choose to call it, had travelled up and down the Dominion.

Now, surely these gentlemen gained some information then in regard to the automobile industry along with other industries in Canada. I know, of course, that this was five or six years ago and possibly the condition of the industry now is somewhat different from what it was at that time. But I think I may safely assume that the automobile industry was prospering back in 1920 and I venture to suggest that its prosperity has increased probably fourfold in the meantime. I have been unable to find any report submitted to parliament by that commission. Although I have looked the matter up I have not discovered that there was ever published any of the information they gathered as a result of that trip, but the House will be interested to know what was contained in the Speech from the Throne as submitted on February 14, 1921, in relation to the tariff question. That speech reads in part as follows:

My advisers are convinced of the necessity for revision of the Customs tariff. In order to secure the most complete information a committee has conducted an extensive and thorough inquiry, and has secured the views of all parties and interests in every province. The hearings necessary for this purpose have now been completed, and the conclusions founded thereon will be submitted to you in due course. It is the opinion of my advisers that in such revision regard must be had to the necessities of revenue and as well that the principle of protection to Canadian labour and legitimate Canadian industries, including agriculture, which has prevailed for more than forty years in this country, must be consistently maintained; but that the Customs duties imposed to that end should be no higher than is essential to ensure good standards of living among our working population and to retain and make possible the normal expansion of the industries in which they find employment.

That apparently is the only information that was ever made public in connection with the investigation of that commission into the tariff. That was a commission of the Conservative government's own making. Three ministers of the crown went exhaustively into the subject in all its phases, and as I well remember, they visited the part of my province in which I live, interviewing everybody who might care to give evidence on any point appertaining to the tariff. They heard the views of farmers, manufacturers, bankers, artisans, labourers, mechanics; in fact, anyone at all who cared to volunteer information on the subject of the tariff was heard. It is reasonable therefore to suppose that these three gentlemen gathered, in the vast mass

[Mr. Sanderson.]

of information submitted to them, some knowledge of the automobile industry. In view of that probability, it is surprising to note what the hon. member for Victoria, B.C., who as I have said was a member of that tariff commission, or board of inquiry, or whatever you may care to call it, said in a speech he delivered in Kingston on April 30 last, as reported in the *Ottawa Citizen* of May 1, 1926:

Doctor Tolmie referred to the cut in the tariff on automobiles made by the government. "Now, I do not propose to say whether the tariff on automobiles is too high or too low," Doctor Tolmie continued. "No one could pass an intelligent opinion on this without a very thorough investigation and hearing both sides, so that I do not know under what grounds the government was able to come to a conclusion, but the general impression in the House of Commons is that they were forced to it as a result of their being under the influence of groups and their effort to run the country with a minority. It will appear to every fair-minded citizen that the proper course to have pursued was to submit this to the tariff board and then abide by the finding of that body."

The hon. member should take this House into his confidence and give us the benefit of the information he gained on that trip in 1920, even if it is five or six years old.

Other hon. gentlemen opposite also have expressed their views on the reduction in the duties on automobiles and motor trucks. The hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) has taken up very many hours of the time of this House during the past four months discussing various industries in Canada. He is a speaker whom we all delight to hear, and he has a wonderful fund of information on practically every industry in Canada. I have heard him discuss the milling industry, the farming industry and, if I mistake not, the textile industry, in regard to which he has given us a good deal of information. But strange to say, when it comes to automobiles, concerning which almost any man in the street can tell you something, the hon. member prefers to have a tariff board report upon the industry. He wants more information than he has at present. He confesses that he is not very well posted on the automobile industry, although he presumes to be thoroughly conversant with almost every other industry discussed in this House.

The hon. member for Toronto West Centre (Mr. Hocken) delivered in this House the other day a speech in which he sidestepped very gingerly the reduction in automobile duties. If I may say so, he made a very good speech in so far as the imposition of a duty on American magazines and periodicals was concerned, but he was not so well versed