

ported to Canada. That constitutes a fairly serious consideration. Because I have come to no decision at all in regard to the matter, I am not saying that these difficulties are so great as to render it impossible for the department to administer the law. I have no intention of taking or recommending action until I am quite convinced I am within the law and that it will be what seems to me in the best interests of all concerned.

Mr. BENNETT: What right has the minister to raise the price? If it had not been for what happened in this country by regulation I would not be presenting this matter to the house and country for consideration. Let us look at the matter fairly. The other day a regulation was read over the signature of Mr. Breadner, the Commissioner of Customs, increasing by 40 per cent the price at which furniture was to be valued for duty purposes—forty per cent, mind you. I ask the minister where he finds authority to do that, when the dumping clause places a limit of 15 per cent.

Mr. EULER: My hon. friend knows very well that when the department of customs has reason to believe or perhaps even to know that goods are being imported into this country at a value less than they hold in the country of origin we have the absolute right to make an appraisal, pending the establishment of the facts which we believe to exist. If after the establishing of the fact we find that we are wrong, the valuation is placed upon its proper basis and a refund is made. That is what was done in the case of furniture. We had reason to think that furniture was imported from the southern United States or from the central southern United States at less than cost. I think my hon. friend knows that to be the fact.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not know it; I only know what has been said.

Mr. EULER: I am saying that absolutely in good faith. Instructions were given by the commissioner—and by the way, I will say that I had nothing to do with the rate at which the increase was made, 40 per cent. That is not too high if goods are being sold we will say at 50 per cent of their cost, as sometimes is the case when people in the United States have stocks on hand which they cannot sell in that country and which they attempt to dump into this country.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. EULER: Yes, I mean exactly what I say. My hon. friends are just as much opposed to that as I am. If goods, for example came

into this country at 50 per cent of their cost in the United States, an increase of 40 per cent on that 50 per cent would only amount to 20 per cent, which would make a valuation of 70 per cent, still 30 per cent lower than their actual cost, so that the amount of 40 per cent sounds a great deal higher than it may be in actual fact.

Mr. BENNETT: It exactly means forty cents on the dollar.

Mr. EULER: It depends on what you have as your basis. If goods come in at 70 per cent of their cost, 40 per cent of that is only 28 per cent.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so; but these two things stand together, and let there be no misunderstanding. What happened was this: furniture came into this country under a 30 per cent duty. The commissioner of customs and the minister says he does not know anything about this 40 per cent—

Mr. EULER: I do not want to be misunderstood; I knew that a higher valuation was being asked for but I did not know it would be 40 per cent.

Mr. BENNETT: The law says he is the man who should know.

Mr. EULER: My hon. friend knows very well that the minister is empowered to do a great many things which are done by his deputy.

Mr. BENNETT: The minister must take the responsibility for that action. If he does not know about its being taken he does not know his business.

Mr. EULER: I will do that; I will take the responsibility.

Mr. BENNETT: If he does not know what is done he does not know his business. Knowing it means that he approves of it. Who is Mr. Breadner, the Commissioner of Customs? He has no place in our institutions; he is not responsible to parliament. The minister is responsible; the minister is the man who under the statute is responsible, and he increased the duty by 40 per cent. Therefore the duty becomes 42 per cent.

Mr. DUNNING: Pending adjustment.

Mr. BENNETT: Pending adjustment, as the minister says, but you delay the adjustment and maintain a duty of 42 per cent.

Mr. EULER: Forty per cent.

Mr. BENNETT: No forty-two per cent; forty per cent of 30 per cent is 12 per cent,