

American publishers to flood Canada with their magazines it is only reasonable to assume that it is bound to be to the detriment of our Canadian publications. It is quite true that these magazines will be read whatever they are and whatever their type may be, good or bad, but from my knowledge of newspaper work I do not think there is a country in the world where the standard is higher and more in the cultural interests of young manhood and womanhood than in the newspaper and magazine industry of Canada. I do not see why we should degenerate to the point of allowing Canada to be flooded with that type of yellow journalism which we know to be so much in evidence in the United States, to the detriment of not only young manhood and womanhood but also of adult manhood and womanhood and those employed in the publishing industry of Canada.

Mr. DUNNING: I think I should say that consideration of this item really has not the moral aspect placed upon it by the hon. member who has just spoken. It is only fair to say that. The magazines which, prior to the imposition of this duty in 1931, came into this country, entered subject to the provisions of section 1201 which is called the customs censorship. They continued to come in under the same conditions, but if they happened to be printed here during the time this duty was on they were not subject to the censorship imposed by that section. I do not say, of course, that more salacious literature was printed in Canada than would have been allowed to come in under the tariff item, because after all the quality of literature sold in Canada depends upon the taste of the Canadian people, and I think the compliment my hon. friend paid the Canadian people in that regard is well deserved. They do not tend to support to any extent undesirable literature. But I have long ago lost—or I never had any—faith in the idea that you can control the morals of the people or the quality of our literature by means of a protective tariff.

Mr. WILTON: May I be allowed to add this one remark?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Saskatoon has the floor.

Mr. YOUNG: I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if there has been any change in the prices of American magazines sold in Canada as compared with the prices in 1935, and, if there has been any change, whether the prices are higher or lower.

[Mr. Wilton.]

Mr. DUNNING: I think it is well known to everyone in the committee that all such magazines announced reductions immediately after this agreement went into effect.

Mr. WILTON: The minister stated that you could not control the reading of magazines. I do not agree with that statement. You can control it by not allowing these magazines to get into the hands of the people whom you do not want to read them.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Before this item passes, as I think it will in a moment or two, I want to remind the house that this has been a very controversial issue for many years. The argument has been advanced time and again that we should not allow these magazines to come in because of their salacious character. I remember advancing the other side of the argument, that they should be kept out if they were not fit to come in or to be circulated in this country, but to allow them to come in simply upon payment of a fine at the border was no cure for the difficulty.

We heard one hon. gentleman opposite say there had been 250 printers engaged in the printing of these magazines. Already my hon. friend from York South has made 320 printers out of those 250, and he says they have lost their jobs through the abolition of the duty on these magazines. I do not know which of these hon. gentlemen is correct. If time permitted I could tell a similar story, with regard to the ravages that were to be caused by the importation of safety razor blades into England. At one time it was stated that this would mean the inundation of the country by 900,000,000 tons of razor blades if certain things happened. I want to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that the Canadian people value very highly the privilege, now restored to them, of buying high class American magazines at reasonable prices. Doubtless some of the poorer class of magazines will come in also. If we do not want them to be circulated among the Canadian people they should be kept out absolutely, by embargo or otherwise. A moment ago the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Young) asked if this had made any difference in the prices of these magazines. I should like to give an illustration in regard to a magazine which I formerly read. The hon. member for York South (Mr. Lawson) made the statement, which was quite true, that magazines of certain classes, religious, educational, philanthropic, agricultural, scientific, and so on, were allowed in free. I have bought for a