but on $4.86\frac{2}{3}$, which makes the duty even higher. This should be figured out so that the committee, as we go through the items, will know the actual duty that will have to be paid on each of them. If we do this we may find that the duties on articles coming from Great Britain are higher than on articles coming from other countries.

Mr. RALSTON: I quite agree with the hon. member for Weyburn and the hon. member for Willow Bunch. I do not see what difficulty there is in the ministers having prepared for the committee a computation which has been repeatedly given in the house and which, while it has not been challenged, at the same time has not been fairly met. It is because the country does not realize the total amount of duty which is being imposed that there is not a stronger protest against the system which is now in force in this country. The request which has been made is a reasonable one and it should be quite easy to work out the answer. I have had an opportunity more than once to do exactly the same thing in connection with various items, and unless the government is ashamed of the rate of duty which is being charged, it might at least give us the benefit of the computation which can be readily made in respect of any item. What we want is a statement from a responsible minister of the crown as to the percentage of duty actually chargeable in connection, let us say, with this particular item, at today's rate of exchange and at the current rate at which the pound is fixed. Then we shall have an idea just how much duty is being charged. Perhaps the house realizes in a general way how much duty is being imposed, but I do not think the country does and I do not believe this can be brought home to the government themselves until they take their lead pencils and figure out how much this imposition of a duty on the pound at par, when as a matter of fact the goods are being bought at, say, $3.72, means, plus the three per cent excise tax, plus, in some cases, a specific duty, plus an ad valorem duty. Then there is the special dumping duty representing the difference between the fixed rate of the pound for let us say the current two weeks and $4.40, which is the rate which has been fixed for the pound for some time. These are things which the committee ought to know and which the ministers can fairly be asked to give. There is no mystery about it at all. There is no reason why statisticians should not sit down and in fifteen minutes, if they are really serious, give us this information in connection with any one of these items.

Mr. RHODES: My hon. friend from Shelburne-Yarmouth was not present this afternoon or he would have heard me give an undertaking, in connection with a similar question which was submitted by my hon. friend from Weyburn, and another hon. member, that before we would ask the committee to rise and report the resolution we would ask for a computation to be made in each instance by responsible officials of the department.

Mr. RALSTON: I heard my hon. friend give that undertaking tonight, but it does not assist us in getting at these figures now. I am suggesting that it could be done in ten minutes by anyone who is familiar with the matter, and there is no reason why we should have to wait till the last minute for the information.

Mr. SPOTTON: If you were here more than one day a month you would learn about it.

Mr. RALSTON: At least perhaps I am as ornamental as my hon. friend who is here all the time. I do submit, Mr. Chairman, that if my hon. friends are really serious about giving the committee the information a computation could be made in a very short time and we should not have to wait until the committee rises.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my hon. friend is unwilling to give the information until just before the committee rises, perhaps he will be good enough to tell the committee whether the calculation of The Economist of London in its issue of October 22, 1932, is a correct one. The Economist has prepared a special supplement dealing with the Ottawa agreements. It is a careful statement of the effect of the tariff changes, and I should like to read to my hon. friend one of the paragraphs which deals with this matter. The statement is:

> The (Canadian) tariff is, however, payable on the value of the article translated into dollars at the rate of $4.86 to the pound, and not at the actual rate of about $3.70 to the pound. In many cases this provision alone neutralizes the British preference in comparison with countries which are on the gold standard.
>
> In addition to the ordinary tariffs, imports into Canada are chargeable with three other taxes. The first of these is the sales tax, now at the rate of 6 per cent, which is not essentially protective, since it is also payable on home products. The second, is the special excise tax, amounting to 3 per cent, which, despite its name, is payable only on imports.