

Customs Act

manufactured goods. If we are going to stop the dumping of manufactured goods, then by the same token we should have something to say about the dumping of fruits, and of other things that could be considered end-of-season products. While I am prepared to accept this as an emergency measure, I think there should have been in it not only the date of coming into force but a provision that it should remain in force for perhaps six months or a year, with the opportunity to have it reviewed by this House of Commons at the end of that time.

I do not like to see a measure of this description placed on the statute books to remain there until the question is raised in the house, and hence it comes before us for reconsideration. I think legislation of this description should be reviewed automatically at certain periods of time—perhaps six months or not more than a year, as the case may be.

There was one other thing I was going to say when Mr. Speaker intervened. While I criticize certain of the textile industries, particularly Dominion Textiles and Montreal Cottons, I would have it clearly understood that there are good employers in the textile industry. Many of those good employers are found in the smaller places throughout Canada. I would not have it understood that I was criticizing every one of them, because that would be most unfair on my part. But I have read the record, and I was here in 1936; so I know something about the background. And I am fearful that unless the minister has plenty of backbone—and I think perhaps he has—he will be up against tremendous pressure from highly protectionist interests in this country.

While this bill is designed to protect our people from unfair practices and from the dumping of end-of-season goods from the United States, every care and every vigilance will have to be exercised by the minister himself, or the consumers in this country will suffer once again, as they have done in the past. And that is exactly what I wished to say, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I think it is not necessary for me to repeat the arguments which have been advanced by speakers who have preceded me in the debate on this bill. I do think however it is necessary for me to say a few things; and if during the course of the few moments in which I speak I repeat one or two of the points made by the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) and the hon.

[Mr. Coldwell.]

member for Rosetown-Biggarr (Mr. Coldwell) it will be only for emphasis rather than through any wish to thresh old straw.

The introduction of this bill does bring to my mind the necessity for saying to the Liberal party something that I think should have been said a long time ago. I think it is about time the Liberal party became honest with the people of Canada and told them just exactly where it stands with respect to trade.

For a long time I have been listening to Liberal campaigners and Liberal speakers going up and down the country declaring to the people that they are free traders, that they are the free trade party. And they have got the people of Canada believing that they really mean free trade—"Just give the Liberals a mandate and they will go in and wipe out every tariff, every customs duty, and make it possible for us to bring things into this country willy-nilly with no restrictions whatsoever".

Well, you cannot blame the people for believing, because that is the way Liberal speakers have taught them. This is an example of the kind of thing which gives the lie to that kind of propaganda, because the government has brought in here a measure designed to protect certain industries in Canada against unfair practices on the part of other nations. And I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is about time the Liberal party, as I said before, came right out honestly and told the people where they stand with respect to trade and protection.

The hon. member for Eglinton made a good case; and one of the important parts of his case was that the emergency which the minister spoke about as being the inducement or the need for this bill has not been an emergency that developed just recently. It has been one that has been growing for months—perhaps for years. And I believe that. I believe the Liberal government has been given to inertia. They have had rocks tied to their feet. And I will tell you why: simply because they did not dare move for fear they would give the lie to the propaganda that they have been peddling all over this country, about being free traders and not protectionists. And any time a party is given to that kind of inertia it will let some of our industries in this country slump into a very bad condition.

As I say, it is about time the Liberal party adopted a specific and well-defined policy with respect to protection, so that the people of Canada will know about it—instead of peddling the propaganda they have been peddling.