

*Tariff Board—Mr. Manion*

within the next two or three years England will be adopting the same type of protection as other countries have adopted.

This legislation is not an attempt to give to my right hon. leader or the government any such powers as are at present possessed by the United States. The United States has the power practically overnight to raise the tariff by 50 per cent and in some cases, I believe, to a greater degree.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): So can the present government.

Mr. MANION: Yes, in the regulation of dumping, but not in other ways. During the last election I remember going into a little town in western Canada that is dependent upon a craft paper mill. The manager of that mill told me that within recent months he had obtained in Minneapolis a good order, an order for a couple of carloads of craft paper and he had shipped it to that city. He informed me he was immediately asked by the tariff board of the United States to appear before them and give reasons why he had a right to ship that into the United States. It is true he might have said that he would not appear, because he was operating in a Canadian town, but had he not gone that would have been a reason for the tariff board to bar him out. He appeared before them and they made conditions so unpleasant for him that he told me he had never attempted to get another order from the United States and he never would. We have no intention of taking any such powers as that under this board. We will appoint a board which is a fact finding board for the Finance Minister, the government and parliament in general.

I should like to discuss another point before I resume my seat, and that is the question of the ten year appointment. I suppose a large proportion of the objection to this measure is to the members of this board being appointed for a term of ten years. But if you are going to secure men for a board of this kind, you can get them only by giving them an appointment for a reasonable period. The old tariff board is a good illustration of the way the personnel of such a board changes when the appointments are not for any specified time of a reasonable length. Mr. Graham was a member of the board for only a short time, and then he retired. Mr. Lambert was a member for only a short time and then he retired. Mr. Moore retired, and Mr. McKenzie retired. These come to my mind at the moment; I do not know what other retirements there were, but it seemed to me that the board was not stable enough

[Mr. Manion.]

to be of any use to any government, even to the government of my right hon. friend opposite. I will go further. Recently when we had to appoint, under the legislation of the house, a pension appeal board, we found very great difficulty, because of the indefinite term and the low salary, in getting a good man to take over the chairmanship. I say that quite frankly. We have different commissions in this country, the members of which are appointed for ten years or longer. The members of the railway commission are appointed for ten years, and speaking of the railway commissioners, when we came into power nearly all the members of the board were appointees of my right hon. friend. Suppose we took the attitude that he took this afternoon, that we would not stand by a board that he had appointed.

An hon. MEMBER: You retired some of them.

Mr. MANION: We did not. A number of them resigned of their own free will. In fact, we could not have crowded them into resigning.

Mr. RALSTON: All judges are appointed for life. They are not in politics.

Mr. MANION: But the Board of Railway Commissioners is a commission. The members of the Farm Loan Board are appointed for ten years. Judges, as my hon. friend from Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston) says, are appointed for life, and I say because they are appointed for life, because they are independent of the comings and goings of governments, we have one of the finest judiciaries in the world. The judges also retire on a pension, as is provided in this bill. In addition, the fact of appointing the board for ten years makes the board more independent and brings about the very object which my right hon. friend says he desires. It puts them in a position to be independent, not only of the incoming government, but also of the government which appointed them, because there will be at least one election, and probably two, before their term expires.

Another reason for the ten year appointment is that it gives stability not only to the board, but also to tariffs, when you have such a board going into all the details of the tariff question and advising the Minister of Finance and the government. Finally, it makes the board more or less non-partisan. My right hon. friend the leader of the opposition would not say that he ever appointed any Conservatives to the bench. There are none that I know of.