

Mr. RALSTON: The minister will furnish it?

Mr. MATTHEWS: I shall be very glad to get any information I can for the hon. member.

Mr. RALSTON: Since he has been in the department has the minister made any investigation himself as to the activities and the amount of production of the plant now alleged to be operating in Sarnia in the manufacture of tinplate?

Mr. MATTHEWS: That matter is now under investigation.

Mr. RALSTON: But has the minister any information about it? There must be tinplate coming in now.

Mr. MATTHEWS: The investigation is not complete.

Mr. RALSTON: But in the meantime what ruling has been made by the department? Is it ruled that tinplate is of a class or kind of goods made in Canada?

Mr. MATTHEWS: I understand it is ruled that tinplate is of a class or kind made in Canada.

Mr. RALSTON: And what information has the minister regarding the Sarnia plant—the number of employees and the amount produced?

Mr. MATTHEWS: I am sorry I have not that information.

Mr. RALSTON: Could the minister give me an idea, through his officers, of the amount of tinplate that has been imported from, let us say, June until December?

Mr. MATTHEWS: No, I have not the information.

Mr. RALSTON: I understand it is a very large amount; I won't talk about tons myself. I submit to the minister, very respectfully and kindly, that in connection with the importation of a product which affects as many primary producers as does tinplate, we might be entitled to a little more information than he has given us with regard to the inquiries made, since he has been in office, touching this important commodity. I understand that a newspaper sent up a reporter there and it was found that no one could get into the Sarnia plant; guards were posted and no one was allowed to get in to see how little they were producing and to what extent they were in the preliminary stage. Did the minister see that report?

Mr. MATTHEWS: No, I did not.

Mr. RALSTON: And he cannot tell us whether there are ten or fifty men there?

Mr. MATTHEWS: We have no information.

Mr. RALSTON: Will the minister try to get the information for us, starting with the letter from the Ojibway Company intimating the cessation of operations in Canada?

Mr. MATTHEWS: Could the hon. member give me an idea of the date of the letter?

Mr. RALSTON: I understand that a letter was produced at the tariff board hearing.

Mr. MATTHEWS: I will look it up.

Mr. RALSTON: If the minister would bring down the whole file with regard to the Mundet Cork and Insulation Company of Toronto, it would assist us.

Mr. SANDERSON: This discussion has almost confirmed the rumour that has been abroad for several months that there has not been the utmost harmony between the Department of National Revenue and the new tariff board. I have here a report of some remarks made by the Prime Minister in the city of Toronto on the night of February 21. The news item is headed:

Denies friction with tariff body.

It reads:

Toronto, Feb. 21.—The attitude of the government toward the Tariff Board has been to offer every assistance and co-operation possible, and he has never received a complaint that it had been otherwise, Prime Minister R. B. Bennett declared in the course of the debate on empire preferences, held at Hart House by students of the University of Toronto, here to-night.

Mr. Bennett was replying to the remarks of S. F. Rae, one of the undergraduates opposing the resolution that "Canada retain her present preferred position in empire markets."

Mr. Rae had said there had been "constant friction" between the Tariff Board—"child of the empire agreements," and the British government. He charged that Canada had not been living up to the agreement with respect to the Tariff Board, had not stopped the practice of fixing values for duty purposes, and had disregarded the orders of the board with respect to duty values on jute twine.

The young debater referred to press reports of remarks attributed to former Justice George Sedgewick, chairman of the board, and the board was entitled to assistance from the law officers of the crown and was not getting it.

"We believe it to be an excellent board and it is entirely wrong to say that we are in variance," Mr. Bennett declared. "A question was raised but it was purely a point of law. I do not believe Mr. Justice Sedgewick ever made those observations attributed to him. Certainly he has never communicated them to