

competition in the country, as, for instance, in the cases covered by the latter part of this section, and where the goods are not offered to purchasers on equal terms under like conditions, having regard to the custom and usage of trade, there should be some discretion in the minister to permit some importation in order to bring about a reasonable level of prices in the industry. This section does not quite cover the particular article to which I had reference. There may be a certain type of machinery in connection with which there may be a monopoly in the country. A person purchasing machinery should be enabled to buy it as cheaply as he can obtain it, instead of being thrown into the hands of one producer or a combine of producers in Canada. To a certain extent this, shall I say, liberalizes the section or permits the waiving of the dumping duty under certain conditions when the consumer is likely to be exploited by a monopoly or a monopolistic combine.

Mr. STEWART: Would an order in council be required to do that, or would the minister make the decision on his own responsibility?

Mr. ILSLEY: The minister can do this.

Mr. BENNETT: I should think a power as great as that should at least have behind it the sanction of an order in council. I desire to congratulate the hon. gentleman again upon his manifestation of that fine spirit of example or, shall I say, of learning by responsibility that, after all, some things have to be done if business is to be carried on. I think it would be better if the power were exercised by the governor in council rather than by the minister. I shall give the benefit of my observations with respect to these matters. This will sound a little like hon. gentlemen listening to their own voices, not so melodious, and if I only had the proper record I could turn it on. That would express the views with respect to the matter, and undoubtedly it would enable someone on the other side to say "gramophone record." This is my observation. Where the minister has to make a decision, sometimes the bulletins which are sent out to the various customs houses do not reach there as quickly as they might and certain difficulties might arise, to which reference has been made in this house. If this were made by governor in council, perhaps it would carry more authority.

I was going to point out another matter. I could name a substance which is produced in this country by one producer, and which is undoubtedly highly protected or, shall I say, fairly highly protected. The previous government provided the tariff and that is sufficient to indicate that it is a fairly high

[Mr. Ilesley.]

tariff. I am speaking now as though my hon. friend were here and I were over there. From what the minister has said, I assume that under those circumstances, notwithstanding the provisions of this resolution, the minister would in no sense interfere with the tariff except that he might put the article on the free list or he might reduce the tariff. That is, the governor in council might do that, but the minister does not contemplate by this section the doing of anything with respect to tariffs. That will be dealt with in an entirely different way. All he does is to say that if I import goods into this country and show him that I must go to a monopoly for them if I desire to purchase them in Canada, and must pay a price which is out of all reasonable proportion to that at which I could import them, he has the power to dispense with the dumping duty. That is all that is meant by that. There is another class of case in connection with which I have received communications. The minister can only recommend to the governor in council that action be taken to reduce the duties, and they can reduce them to the extent of making them free if they so desire. That is as the law now stands.

Mr. ILSLEY: Goods may be put on the free list by the governor in council and the governor in council may reduce or remove duties as compensation to another country which gives corresponding advantages to us. I am not aware of any power in the governor in council to reduce duties or place goods on the free list, unless they come within one or the other of those categories.

Mr. BENNETT: Is there not another one?

Mr. ILSLEY: I cannot think of it at the moment. As the right hon. gentleman well knows, an order in council may always be passed to remit or refund duties, but that is a different matter.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not mean that.

Mr. ILSLEY: The right hon. gentleman may have been referring to section 17 which reads:

In the event of producers of goods taking advantage of any duty imposed under this act to increase the price of such goods to the consumer, or using any such duty to maintain prices at levels deemed by the governor in council to be higher than should prevail, having regard to general economic conditions in the country, the governor in council may reduce or remove such duty.

Mr. BENNETT: That still remains?

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes.

Resolution 1 agreed to.