

Customs Tariff

hon. member for York West, so that hon. members would have a chance to study it. The entire list is there. This is the list of goods in which the British have the same rate as the most-favoured-nation rate. Of course in the great majority of cases the British rate is substantially lower than the most-favoured-nation rate. But in these particular items through various trade negotiations between ourselves and Britain, and between ourselves and other countries—because, after all, Britain is not our only market—we have established this list of goods on which the British rate and the most-favoured-nation rate is the same. The total value, when you add them all up, is about \$3 million. The total value of the imports from the British countries last year was around \$520 million. That does not mean to say that, because we are now abolishing this special discount in this \$3 million range, that entire market is actually going to go over to the Americans. Actually, I doubt whether there will be any loss in it. This list still will be sold in Canada. But at least we have done our part in removing one of these hidden discounts which has acted so much in restraint of trade in the past.

Mr. Coldwell: This question was raised at Anney, was it?

Mr. Sinclair: Yes, but at Geneva, not Anney.

Mr. Coldwell: Who raised the question of this discount?

Mr. Sinclair: I am informed that the United States themselves were the ones who raised it at Geneva.

Mr. Coldwell: As we look at this list it appears to be relatively small, \$3 million. When you look through the list you find that is one in which the United States is primarily interested. It contains such things as milk foods, prepared cereal foods. I do not know about kippered herring.

Mr. Sinclair: Milk, for example, \$166.

Mr. Coldwell: If you look at the goods manufactured and come down to cotton clothing you find: shirts, not knitted; cotton clothing, women's and children's dresses; men's smocks and overalls; tray cloths, table cloths; quilts and counterpanes; sheets; towels; wash cloths and bath mats, pillow cases, typewriter ribbons. These are products in which the United States are particularly interested. By this they can now come into our market and compete a little more favourably with the British manufacturers or the commonwealth manufacturers.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Chairman, the United States have submitted a list of 2,500 items on which they are reducing duties. Has the parliamentary assistant that list?

Mr. Sinclair: No.

Mr. Fraser: That would help us to some extent, would it? Is the duty entirely removed or only partially removed?

Mr. Sinclair: The list is available if the hon. member wants it.

Mr. Fraser: I would like to see it.

Mr. Fulton: Before the clause carries I think the parliamentary assistant might answer the direct question. He has said that we have taken the lead in matters of this kind in eliminating what he called hidden discriminations in the hope that the country which is the key one in world trade today, namely, the United States, would do the same and permit those countries so concerned with export to export to her freely. I think the parliamentary assistant should answer the direct question: Are our officials satisfied—since we have taken the lead, and since we have made what I understand amounts to quite substantial concessions at Geneva and Anney—with the response to those gestures so far made by the United States in a reciprocal manner?

Mr. Sinclair: I am informed that they are very pleased, and that is one of the reasons for this conference, namely, to check on the detail of what actually has been done. But I am informed that the economic policy advisers in our department, the Department of Finance, are very pleased with the action taken so far.

Mr. Graydon: Are they easily satisfied?

Mr. Sinclair: The Department of Finance is never very easily satisfied. The hon. member knows that.

Mr. Graydon: The country is not always satisfied with them.

Mr. Johnston: Will the action taken here not increase the cost of goods in Canada by the amount of the tariff? That means another increase in the cost of living. If our cost of living index keeps going up you will need a ladder to get to the top of it.

Mr. Sinclair: I point out to the hon. member that if he looks over this list he will find that almost every item is produced in great quantities today in Canada. The British and the United States manufacturers must meet the Canadian prices. That is especially true of the textile group. The great bulk of textiles used in Canada today is made in Canada. If this were the sole market for these