

on the whole outfit, I still claim that most of the oil produced within the Dominion of Canada is produced from shallow wells, and that the machinery required to drill such wells is not the machinery that would be required to drill a well two thousand feet deep. Therefore, it would not come under this item. We well remember the reduction in the assistance in the shape of a bounty to the oil industry. The principle was established in the budget of last year that where a reduction was made in the protective tariff, a like reduction was made on the materials entering into the production of those goods. I think, in this instance, a reduction should have been made on the goods entering into the production of crude oil. That branch of the industry is left now without any assistance. While the refining branch is given assistance. We have no reduction in duty on the tools which are required to drill these wells, neither have we any reduction in the duty on the goods that are required to maintain these wells. There is a large quantity of casings, tubing, rods, brass cups, couplings and the like upon which there is a heavy duty, and carrying out the same principle that was carried out last year, a reduction should be made in the duty on these items.

Mr. LEADER: I should like to back up what some hon. members have said about well drilling machinery used in drilling for water. I know something about that as I have had to go down two hundred feet for water for the animals on my farm. Last year when casings over four inches were exempted from the sales tax, I did not say anything, although I felt the government should have gone further and given the same exemption on casings used in wells for water. The present is not too late to amend that. Many farmers in western Canada especially have to drill to find water for their animals. This entails a great deal of expense. Many times they drill for three or four hundred feet, striking stone, and they must take their machinery out and drill somewhere else. Sometimes they drill for days or weeks without accomplishing their purpose and their expense is all for nothing. It is only fair to the farmers of western Canada, and, indeed, of all Canada, who are similarly situated in that regard, if the government would include well drilling machinery for drilling wells of any depth, for water, as well as oil.

Mr. FANSHER: In view of the fact that the minister made an investigation of the oil industry, has he considered the idea of reducing the duty on the goods that enter into the production of crude oil?

Mr. ROBB: I had officials of the department go through the oil wells in western Canada and the demand was more for a bounty than for any change in the duty. I have listened to the observations of hon. gentlemen this afternoon and I shall refer all this to the tariff inquiry board to go carefully into it. I am not prepared to make any further concessions this session.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): On what principle does the minister admit free the Diesel engine for marine purposes and tractors when used for farming purposes, and charge a duty on both when used for mining? Is it not just as necessary, if the tariff is changed for the purpose of helping industry, that the change should apply to mining as well as to other industries?

Mr. ROBB: My hon. friend will observe that it referred to a class or a kind not made in Canada. My recollection is that when we made the change in regard to mining duties last year my hon. friend was not very enthusiastic over it.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon) The minister is entirely mistaken; I made no remarks on the matter one way or the other. I had correspondence with him in which I asked a question and the reply was merely that my suggestion was noted. I certainly think that where gasoline tractors are admitted free for farming purposes they should be admitted free, on the same principle, for mining purposes. Farms were carried on successfully many years before they used tractors, but in some of the remote parts of the country much difficulty would be experienced in mining if they had not the gasoline tractor for freighting and hauling ore. And the industries in those sections are much more in need of encouragement than is the ordinary farmer to-day. These engines are used for power purposes in these localities where there is no fuel supply and they cannot obtain hydro power. I submit that if the government is going to reduce the tariff on principle to help industries it should make reductions in this case. Of course, if the object is merely to get votes in various localities it is a different thing. Certainly, if the government is really anxious to help industries, the mining industry can be helped in this way.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—553a. Braided candle-wick with or without wire centre or braided taper-wick with or without wire centre when imported by manufacturers of wax candles or wax tapers for use only in their own factories in the manufacture of wax candles or wax tapers: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, free; general tariff, free.