

I do not see how he can very well longer decline to embody this idea in legislation. We are now spending large sums of money subsidizing steamers to carry freight to and fro across the Atlantic. These subsidies are necessary because the business of itself is not sufficient to pay the steamers engaged in it. This proposal, if adopted, will help in this direction. It will help to make our Atlantic business more self-sustaining and will probably help us to reduce in the near future the subsidies which we now find absolutely necessary. I should be glad to hear the Finance Minister state that he will be able to re-consider this matter and will propose it as part of the law of the land that no preference shall be granted except on goods that are imported through Canadian ports.

Motion agreed to, and House went into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. FIELDING. I have placed on the table resolutions drawn in conformity with the announcements I made in the budget speech as to tariff changes, and I do now desire that they should be taken up. I shall be glad, as they are read to give any explanations that may be needed:

1. That it is expedient to amend the Customs Tariff, 1897, as amended by subsequent Acts, to the following effect:

Schedule 'A' is amended as follows:
Item 158. Strike out the words 'dry white and.'

That refers to the white lead and other articles of a similar character. By striking out 'dry white and' we leave other items at the present rate of duty, and we make special provision for that we strike out.

The following items to be inserted:

8. (a) Wines of all kinds, except sparkling wines, containing not more than forty per cent of spirit of the strength of proof, whether imported in wood or in bottles (six quart or twelve pint bottles to be held to contain a gallon), when the produce or manufacture of any British colony or territory in the South African Customs Union Convention, twenty-five cents per gallon.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. Is not that the same duty as now exists?

Mr. FIELDING. No, the rate is 25 per cent on wines up to 26 per cent of spirit. This enlarges the list to 40 per cent of spirit and includes the wines that come from South Africa.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. The hon. minister is not applying this to Australia?

Mr. FIELDING. No. Australia has no to-day preference. I stated in the budget speech that we had taken steps to intimate to the Australian government that we were desirous of making a preferential arrangement with them. If they are prepared to make such an arrangement, there is no

Mr. DANIEL.

reason why the same privilege that is here extended to South Africa should not be extended to Australia.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. Will the minister say whether this will or will not affect the Canadian product? I am not sufficiently versed in wine as to know whether this percentage is what exists in the Canadian wines or not. We have a large industry in Brantford, manufacturing Canadian wines; and if the duty is to be materially reduced, it may affect that industry. They control the Pelee island vineyards, where the grapes are grown that are manufactured into the wine in Brantford. This is a large industry and has been in existence for many years. I should hesitate to approve anything that would materially affect the output of wines of our own district; for we can grow almost any quantity of grapes that may be necessary, and can supply a light wine that is most palatable, at a reasonable price. I do not know whether the proof here mentioned is the same as that of our Canadian wine.

Mr. FIELDING. I do not like to plead guilty to having knowledge of wines, any more than does my hon. friend (Mr. Cockshutt). I think this change will not affect the Canadian wine. I have some knowledge of the Pelee island wine, and I think it will not be affected. This change will tend to bring the South African wines into competition in this country with the European product.

Mr. DANIEL. What are the South African wines—are they clarets, or are they more like ports and sherries?

Mr. FIELDING. I am not sure that I can give my hon. friend (Mr. Daniel) the technical name. I think the South African wines would not be classed as ports, but more as clarets. They are described as light wines.

50. (a) Rolled oats, six-tenths of a cent per pound.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. What is the duty on rolled oats now?

Mr. FIELDING. There is no special duty on rolled oats. When our tariff was prepared, this article was not known by that name or in some way it escaped notice. For want of a better classification, it has been included under oatmeal, which is taxed at 20 per cent. We desire to mention it specially and to put it at the rate here given.

Mr. BARR. That is an increase?

Mr. FIELDING. To that extent, an increase. The argument used is that the quantity of oats used to make a barrel of rolled oats is 12 bushels. Oats are dutiable at 10 cents per bushel. Therefore