

Customs tariff—79. Florist stock, viz.: Azaleas, rhododendrons, pot-grown lilacs, rose stock and other stock for grafting, seedling carnation stock, araucarias, bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes and dormant roots, n.o.p.; seedling stock for grafting, viz.: Plum, pear, peach and other fruit trees: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, 15 per cent; general tariff, 20 per cent.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): How many, if any, of these items come from Great Britain?

Mr. RHODES: Imports under this item were \$677,000, of which \$28,000 worth came from the United Kingdom; \$38,000 from the United States, and almost the entire remainder from the Netherlands.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Does the statement which the minister has before him indicate which of the items would come from Great Britain?

Mr. RHODES: I am sorry I cannot give the individual items. The item is a complicated one and the amount covers the whole.

Mr. POULIOT: Rhododendrons grow wild in South Africa.

Mr. NEILL: I trust the hon. member for West Kootenay will hear me say that I support this item. I am sure he will be gratified. This is a very modest form of protection, only 15 per cent and 20 per cent. While it is not popular to advocate protection in these days of reaction against the extreme high tariff policies of hon. gentlemen opposite, yet I am not ashamed to say that to a moderate degree I am in favour of a tariff especially on a new industry. There has grown up in British Columbia, possibly in the district represented by the hon. member for Nanaimo and also in the district I represent, an industry in this class of bulbs. The growers have been very hard hit in the last year or two, because when Britain imposed a duty on foreign imports it practically shut Holland out of the British market, with the result that Holland redoubled her efforts and unloaded her goods on the Canadian market with disastrous consequences to this young and growing industry. In my district there is a man who has made a specialty—I think he is known throughout Canada—of the production of rhododendrons; growing and propagating them in the open air he could supply the whole of Canada. I do not know whether the hon. member for Vancouver Centre intends to oppose this item—

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): No.

Mr. NEILL: —but I intend to support it and I hope the hon. member for West Kootenay will be pleased.

Mr. COOTE: I think the first two items illustrate the very dangerous nature of the agreement which has been negotiated, because we are raising the tariff against Holland on goods that come largely from that country, and it is only natural to expect that Holland will not feel very gracious towards us over this treatment. Holland has been a good customer for Canadian wheat, and I am afraid we are doing a very unwise thing in imposing what may seem to be small, irritating tariffs, but which may result in action by Holland to cancel the treaty that we have with that country. When I was in Montreal within the last ten days I met a man who had just returned from Europe, and who said he had been talking to one of the largest wheat importers in the Netherlands in an effort to interest him in Canadian wheat. The importer, however, said that they were no longer interested in importing our wheat because we did not seem to want to take any goods from them. That is something we cannot ignore. I regret very much that in negotiating this trade agreement with Great Britain, instead of raising tariffs against countries like Holland, we did not offer Britain some concessions, for instance, in the form of a reduction of tariff on textiles. That would have been of much greater benefit to Britain and of considerable benefit to Canada, and it would not have put us in so much danger of losing our trade treaty with Holland, which is so good a customer of ours. The figures given this afternoon indicate that Holland is buying twice as much from Canada as we are buying from her. It is unfortunate that we should raise duties against such a good customer in order to secure this trade agreement. It is one of the objectionable features of the agreement.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I should like to say very plainly that in this matter I am in absolute agreement with the principle advanced by the hon. member for Macleod. In the first place I am strongly in favour of trade within the empire. In the second, I have no objection at all to diverting trade from a country that will not buy our goods to one that will. It is, however, bad policy and unsound business, at a time when markets are being so largely closed against us, to alienate a good customer like Holland which has consistently purchased from two to three times as much in value of our goods as we have bought from her. This is going against the principle which has been enunciated of diverting trade from countries that will not trade with us to countries that will, and I join very strongly in the protest of the hon. member for Macleod. It surely would have been possible to make an agree-