

Tariff
Item

British Preferential Tariff	Intermediate Tariff	General Tariff
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Provided (3) that bottles and flasks and packages of gin, rum, whisky and brandy of all kinds, and imitations thereof, shall be held to contain the following quantities (subject to the provisions for addition or deduction in respect of the degree of strength) viz:—

Bottles, flasks and packages, containing not more than three-fourths of a gallon per dozen, as three-fourths of a gallon per dozen;

Bottles, flasks and packages, containing more than three-fourths of a gallon but not more than one gallon per dozen, as one gallon per dozen;

Bottles, flasks and packages, containing more than one gallon but not more than one and one-half gallon per dozen, as one and one-half gallon per dozen;

Bottles, flasks and packages, containing more than one and one-half gallon but not more than two gallons per dozen, as two gallons per dozen;

Bottles, flasks and packages, containing more than two gallons but not more than two and four-fifths gallons per dozen, as two and four-fifths gallons per dozen;

Bottles, flasks and packages, containing more than two and four-fifths gallons but not more than three gallons per dozen, as three gallons per dozen;

Bottles, flasks and packages, containing more than three gallons but not more than three and one-fifth gallons per dozen, as three and one-fifth gallons per dozen.

Provided (4) that bottles or phials of liquors for special purposes, such as samples not for sale to the trade, may be entered for duty according to actual measurement, under regulations prescribed by the Minister.

This indicates that the cost of importation of spirituous liquors has been reduced considerably. Yet there still is, I suppose, a large margin of profit available to persons who evade the payment of duties by smuggling.

I wrote to the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, asking for a statement as to the activities of the Preventive Service. His reply is somewhat lengthy, but quite informative, and as there is very little more on the Order Paper, I ask leave to read the statement, so that it may appear in Hansard.

Ottawa, March 3, 1936.

Dear Senator Dandurand,

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo enclosing a copy of The Debates of the Senate for Thursday, February 13, 1936, and referring to a proposal made by Senator Hughes that a special committee of the Senate take up for consideration the existing conditions with respect to the smuggling and illicit distillation of liquor.

2. In accordance with the request contained in your letter, the following information is submitted in an endeavour to outline briefly our experience during the past few years, and the present situation with respect to the traffic, and the methods employed to combat the tactics used by those engaged in the nefarious trade in illicit liquor.

Taking Over of Preventive Duties

3. On April 1, 1932, the duties of the Preventive Service were assumed by this Force, being taken over from the former Preventive Branch which operated directly under the Department of National Revenue. All the personnel of the former Service, including those who were employed on patrol vessels, who were up to the standard of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were taken on the strength of the Force. All patrol vessels and patrol cars were, at the same time, taken over by the Police.

4. The change was made easily, facilitated to a great extent by the absorption of the majority of the personnel of the former Preventive Service, and due to the fact that a considerable number within the Force had enforced the Excise Act and, to a lesser extent, the Customs Act, for some years prior to 1932.

5. The effectiveness of the new Service was retarded for the first few months while definite instructions of a uniform character were prepared for the guidance of the Force as a whole, in enforcing the respective Acts.

Powers: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act was amended in 1932, conferring upon all members of the Force the powers of customs-excise officers. Instruction in Preventive Service work was, therefore, included in the schedule of training throughout the Force.

7. Writs of assistance were provided in order that at least one member of necessary detachments throughout the country might be so equipped.