

Mr. BENNETT: Each dominion—South Africa, Australia, indeed, most of them—has a separate agreement. So you cannot speak of the matter in that way.

Mr. DUNNING: All of them.

Mr. BENNETT: Is there any chance of this interfering in any manner with the development of our own industry? We have been making desperate efforts to do something in this regard. The hon. gentleman knows what was endeavoured to be done in Saskatchewan.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes. I might say for the information of the committee that the production of silicate, arseniate, and chlorate of soda has been materially increased since the conference, but in most cases the figures are not available because fewer than three firms are yet reporting.

Mr. BENNETT: What are the United States rates on these items, at present and prior to 1930?

Mr. DUNNING: The present United States rates are three-eighths of a cent, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents, three cents, $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents, one cent, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents, two cents. That is, for the various kinds of soda.

Mr. BENNETT: What were the rates before 1930?

Mr. DUNNING: No change.

Mr. STEWART: Those rates are per pound?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes.

Mr. STEWART: Has the minister any record of the exports of these commodities to the United States?

Mr. DUNNING: No; we are just commencing production in Canada.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—213. Acetic acid, containing by weight more than 65 per centum of acetic acid, $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound.

Mr. DUNNING: Acetic acid is of increasing importance. Our imports amounted to \$900, and our exports to \$3,050,000, produced altogether, I think, by a firm in Quebec. The duty arranged for here is reciprocal with that in the United States. Our great market for this commodity is in the United States.

Mr. BENNETT: What is the present Canadian duty on acetic acid coming in from the United States?

[Mr. Dunning.]

Mr. DUNNING: Our duties are ten, $12\frac{1}{2}$ and fifteen cents per gallon up to the strength of proof.

Mr. BENNETT: And that is the same item we are now reducing to $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes; but there is a complication because for each degree of strength over proof the duties are one and one-half cents, one and three-quarter cents and two cents per gallon. That would be in the neighbourhood of one dollar per pound. We are binding this to the one and a quarter cents per pound.

Mr. BENNETT: Is that not a rather serious thing to do?

Mr. DUNNING: The concession from the United States is regarded as of great importance to this industry. The rate is reciprocal.

Mr. MacNICOL: How much does a gallon weigh?

Mr. DUNNING: About ten pounds.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—236. Surgical dressings, anti-septic or aseptic, including absorbent cotton, lint, lamb's wool, tow, jute, oakum, woven fabric of cotton weighing not more than seven and one-half pounds per one hundred square yards, whether imported singly or in combination one with another, but not stitched or otherwise manufactured; surgical trusses and suspensory bandages of all kinds; sanitary napkins, spinal braces and abdominal supports, 25 per cent.

Mr. DUNNING: This is binding the intermediate tariff.

Mr. BENNETT: This is a reduction of ten per cent and I believe this matter is of considerable importance to Canada. Most of these articles are now being produced in this country in branch plants of well known British and American firms. I am rather curious to see what the effect of this reduction of ten per cent will be upon branch factories located near the border in western Ontario and in other sections of the dominion. The production of surgical dressings and other articles of this sort is of great interest to countries in which cotton is grown and the many branch factories of the American industry will now be confronted with this reduction of ten per cent; instead of a thirty-five per cent protection they will now have only twenty-five per cent. I am curious to know what our importations were under the thirty-five per cent tariff.

Mr. DUNNING: Prior to 1932 the maximum rate under the general tariff was only twenty per cent, so that the present rate will