

Wheat Shipments

That is, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise.

—to have been consigned from any part of the British Empire and grown, produced or manufactured in any country to which this section applies, neither the general ad valorem duty nor any additional duty shall be chargeable until the fifteenth day of November, nineteen hundred and thirty-two, or if a later date is fixed for the purposes of this section by resolution of the commons house of parliament either generally or as respects any particular country, then, in cases to which the resolution applies, until that date.

The government has received inquiries as to whether or not goods consigned through another country to Great Britain would receive the preference, and having satisfied ourselves as to what the position was, we verified it so that it is now abundantly clear that the mere transit of Canadian goods through the United States, for instance, would not be a barrier to the granting of an imperial preference, provided that the goods are definitely consigned from Canada to the United Kingdom and that satisfactory evidence of through consignment is produced. The preference, however, would not be granted in the United Kingdom to such goods if they were sent from Canada to say, the United States and then reconsigned from there. The conditions under which imports to the United Kingdom are governed may be found in regulation No. 12 of the customs regulations issued by the United Kingdom, as follows:

12. When empire goods consigned to Great Britain or Northern Ireland have been transhipped en route, or have been shipped from a foreign port after overland transit from the empire country of origin, the importer at the time of making entry will be required to produce the through bill of lading or railway consignment note from the country of production to Great Britain or Northern Ireland in support of the certificate of origin. Where a through bill of lading or consignment note is not available, the invoice, local bill of lading or consignment note from the original point of origin, and a certificate of arrival or landing at, and exportation from, the port of transshipment will be required. Such certificates are to be signed by the proper colonial or foreign customs officer at the port of transshipment, and in the case of the latter the signature must be visaed by the British consular authority. It is essential to prove that the goods were consigned from a part of the empire to Great Britain or Northern Ireland, and not to a foreign country from which they were subsequently reconsigned to Great Britain or Northern Ireland.

That, hon. members will observe, is but an expansion in terms of the conditions of the statute, providing that goods to receive free entry into the United Kingdom must originate within the empire and be consigned to the United Kingdom.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Shelburne-Yarmouth): Arising out of the Prime Minister's statement, may I ask whether the same rule will be applied by this government in connection with goods imported into Canada from other parts of the British Empire? That is to say, will our government recognize these goods as being entitled to the preference if they have originated in some other part of the empire even though they have been actually shipped from a foreign port?

Mr. BENNETT: There has been no change up to the present in the law as it has existed for years.

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): Might I ask the Prime Minister a question in view of what he has just said? Let us take the instance of the Grain Growers Grain Company in Winnipeg consigning wheat to Buffalo or New York for storage. Does that wheat, when transhipped from those ports, not come under the preference?

Mr. BENNETT: I have read to the house the regulations.

Mr. VALLANCE: We would like an illustration.

Mr. BENNETT: It is not for me to answer questions with respect to illustrations. Great Britain has, through the judgment of her parliament, imposed the conditions under which free entry will be granted. I have read from the statute indicating what those conditions are and I have also read the regulations governing importations into the United Kingdom.

TOBACCO PRICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. H. TAYLOR (Norfolk-Elgin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour a question based upon the unsatisfactory market condition which exists for flue cured tobacco in southern Ontario. Has he or any department of government received complaints of an alleged purchasing combine among the purchasing companies of flue cured tobacco in southern Ontario, the purpose of the combine of course being to keep the prices to the growers below the true market value? If so, what action does the government intend to take to remedy the situation?

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Labour): I do not know whether complaints have been made with respect to the matter to which the hon. member has referred.