

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Well, is it true?

Mr. ROBB: Hansard will show whether or not the hon. member made that statement.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I am not asking whether he said it. Supposing he did say it; is it true? Is that the arrangement, that the manufacturers of agricultural implements are to have returned to them the Crowsnest pass rates?

Mr. ROBB: I must ask my hon. friend to raise that point when the Minister of Railways is before him with his estimates. I submit to my hon. friend, who is an old parliamentarian, that that question has absolutely nothing to do with the question now under consideration.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I really do not know what the mystery or the difficulty is in this matter. It seems to me that if I were a party to an arrangement I would not be ashamed of it, and if I were not a party I would frankly say so. I really cannot understand the trouble here, nor do I understand the point raised that this question is not relevant. Why, the basis of an argument made from the government benches in this very debate was that it was relevant.

Mr. FORKE: What arrangement does my hon. friend refer to?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I will state it again: That the manufacturers of agricultural implements were to have restored to them the Crowsnest pass rates.

Mr. FORKE: The hon. gentleman knows that no arrangement is necessary for that purpose; the rates would go into effect automatically.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I do not say whether it is necessary or not.

Mr. FORKE: There is no arrangement.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The hon. gentleman is very quick at rushing to the rescue when any issue uncomfortable to hon. gentlemen opposite has been raised, he does that all the time and I expect it from him. He may not be as wise as hon. gentlemen opposite but he is certainly more courageous, there is no doubt about that. However I do not think such action on his part is wise. We all know that previously parliament suspended those rates, and it is equally true that if parliament does not suspend them again the lower rates will come into effect. But I am just trying to find out what the fact is—whether the arrangement or understanding of

the manufacturers is that the Crowsnest pass rates on agricultural implements are to be allowed to go into effect.

Mr. FORKE: May I ask another question?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Let us see if we can get my question answered first.

Mr. FORKE: All right. I was just going to ask—

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: One minute. Let us hear what the minister has to say.

Mr. ROBB: While I do not like to press my genial friend so far as to ask for the ruling of the Chair, I appeal to him as an old parliamentarian and a man of common sense if the question he has just raised has anything whatever to do with the matter now being considered in connection with this resolution.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Questions of costs, questions of marketing, questions of the difficulty of carrying on business would have to be looked into in seriously considering any tariff—at any rate I would have thought so. And one of the chief elements of costs in doing business to-day is transportation rates. Now the effect of allowing, by a total absence of government action, the Crowsnest pass rates to go into effect will make a decrease in connection with rakes, binders and mowers, a decrease ranging from 20 to 24 per cent in the cost of transportation to western Canada, which is something which enters vitally into the question. That is, of course, if these questions are approached from a business standpoint to some small degree and not entirely from a political standpoint. If we are considering the business effect of tariff changes we have to bear in mind these very matters that I have referred to—expense to carry on business or manufacturing, the expense of marketing, and so on. Does my hon. friend say that railway rates have nothing to do with the expense of marketing?

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: We had better do what the minister suggests, allow the Chair to rule without further discussion.

Mr. ROBB: I am satisfied.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The minister suggests, Mr. Chairman, that you should rule upon the materiality of my request.

The CHAIRMAN: No point of order has been raised. When it is raised I will rule.