

Ways and Means—Customs Tariff

more economically from the United Kingdom than from Saskatchewan.

British salt cake is higher in price at the source than Canadian salt cake, and the British producers can compete in Canada against the Saskatchewan produce only at points situated at tidewater, and then only where the consumers are prepared to buy in bulk, in cargo lots.

Disregarding all customs duties, the Canadian producers are very advantageously placed to secure all the business of the Canadian users receiving their supplies in small shipments, and it is apparent that the present duty is unnecessarily high adequately to ensure to the Saskatchewan industry competitive access to its economic market in Canada.

I may say that as a matter of fact the company referred to by my hon. friend has been and is exporting large quantities of salt cake to the United States. The findings continue:

Evidence at the inquiry established that, at current prices, the protection afforded Canadian salt cake at point of production is approximately 135 per centum.

A duty under the British preferential tariff of $\frac{1}{3}$ cent per pound would be sufficient to allow the British Columbia producers, when they begin operations and if they should desire the market, full opportunity of reasonable competition, via the Panama canal, with United Kingdom producers for the business of the mills situated on the Atlantic seaboard.

It will be noticed that we do not intend to interfere with the intermediate and general tariffs; we are simply reducing the British preferential from one-half cent to one-fifth cent per pound.

Mr. EULER: The minister stated that an application was received from only one paper company, the Bathurst Pulp and Paper Company. I should like to know if they were joined by other paper manufacturers when they requested reduced duties?

Mr. RHODES: No, the only application we received was from the Bathurst company.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—210e.—Nitrate of soda or cubic nitre when imported for use as a fertilizer, for use in the curing or pickling of meats or for use in the manufacture of vitreous glazes and enamel frits, or when imported by manufacturers of explosives for use exclusively in the manufacture of explosives, in their own factories: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, free; general tariff, free.

Mr. RHODES: I have an amendment to move to item 210e. It reads:

Nitrate of soda or cubic nitre when imported for use as a fertilizer, or as a flux in the reduction of electrolytic copper slimes, or for use in the curing and pickling of meats or in the manufacture of vitreous glazes and enamel

[Mr. Rhodes.]

frits, or when imported by manufacturers of explosives for use exclusively in the manufacture of explosives in their own factories: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, free; general tariff, free.

This is a conference item and it is being widened further as a result of the concurrence of the British government.

Mr. BOUCHARD: I think the minister is to be congratulated for this change which benefits the farmer and for having carried into effect the constructive suggestions from this side of the house.

Amendment agreed to.

Item as amended agreed to.

Customs tariff—216d. Phthalic anhydride, adipic, abietic, maleic and succinic acids and ethylene glycol, when imported by manufacturers of synthetic resins, for use exclusively in the manufacture of synthetic resins, in their own factories: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, free; general tariff, free.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—219. (ii) Solutions of hydrogen peroxide containing twenty-five per centum or more by weight of hydrogen peroxide: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, 22½ per cent; general tariff, 25 per cent.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—219e. Mixtures containing cyanides, for use in combating destructive insects and pests: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, free; general tariff, free.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—242. Dry red lead, orange mineral and titanium oxide; zinc oxides such as zinc white and lithopone: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, 15 per cent; general tariff, 15 per cent.

Mr. RHODES: This is a conference item and is being widened. I move to amend it so that the item shall read:

242. Dry red lead, orange mineral, titanium oxide and antimony oxide; zinc oxides such as zinc white and lithopone: British preferential tariff, free; intermediate tariff, 15 per cent; general tariff, 15 per cent.

This represents a very substantial reduction. Under the British preference it was 15 per cent and is now free; under the intermediate it was 20 per cent and is now 15 per cent; and under the general it was 22½ per cent and is now 15 per cent.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Does the bulk of the imports come from Britain?

Mr. RHODES: Under the item as it stood last year, and up to the present time, the total importations have been 23,733,291 pounds