

a step in the right direction, and his action in this regard will be highly appreciated amongst all fishing communities in the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. STEVENS: I now have some of the correspondence to which I referred and I would like to read it. This is a telegram from the Vivian Gas Engine Works, addressed to myself under date of March 25, immediately following the introduction of the resolution by the minister:

We regard announced reduction duty fishermen's gas engines from twenty-seven and half to fifteen per cent as extremely serious in effect it will have on our business. Since commencing operations in 1909 and through financial assistance accorded us provincial Department Industries we have built up industry to-day employing average twenty-three skilled mechanics with pay-roll averaging seven hundred dollars per week. We are dependent for seventy-five per cent our business on orders from individual fishermen and while reduction in duty represents very little saving to those buyers in purchasing American engines reduction in prices which will be forced make to retain business simply means difference between profit and loss to us. We hope you will make strong protest and endeavour induce government refrain from proposed action in view its inevitable effect in curtailing our operations.

Vivian Gas Engine Works.

I have also a telegram from Easthope Brothers, Limited. This concern has been built up in the most commendable manner from a small shop operated, I think, by a family of two or three brothers and the father, established many years ago, until it has acquired now a considerable standing and reputation. The business experienced for a number of years all the vicissitudes of a growing industry; the type of engines produced has changed in the last twenty years from two cycle to four cycle, and so on, and there have been many other modifications and inevitable alterations. They have kept pace with all these changes and have turned out an excellent engine. They say:

Reduction in duty on American engines from 27½ to 15 per cent announced in budget literally means wiping out our industry as we are dependent for 90 per cent our business on sales individual fishermen. As you know we started business here in small way in 1890 and have gradually built our business up till to-day we are employing twenty-five highly skilled mechanics with average annual pay roll of not less than \$50,000. We cannot possibly reduce our price to compete with figure at which American engines can be sold here under new tariff and only result will be that our employees with their dependents will be obliged go American side where engines which will be sold in this market in future are made. This is life and death proposition with us and we ask you protest in strongest possible terms on our behalf against announced reduction.

I have other representations as well. I appreciate what my hon. friend (Mr. Kyte) said a moment ago; there is perhaps some [Mr. Kyte.]

temporary advantage to be gained by a few individual fishermen. But I know that so far as the Pacific coast is concerned, where there are a great many fishermen who use this class of engine, we shall find that once the Canadian manufacturer is put out of business, as he will be as a result of this, any advantage that may accrue to the purchasers of these engines will disappear. And I doubt very much whether my hon. friend's constituents on the east will derive any advantage from this reduction. It may be that in eastern Canada some of the plants having a wider market may be able to meet the American price by some means or other, although I am not sufficiently qualified to speak in that regard. I will venture to say however that in many cases in the east there will be put out of business plants which have gradually developed in the manufacture of these engines; and once they are driven to the wall the fishermen will get no benefit from this alleged favour.

Last year when the question of a reduction in logging machinery was under consideration I predicted certain results; and in remarks I made early this session I pointed out that certain businesses in Vancouver had been seriously affected. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. King, Kootenay) in his speech declared that I had stated what was untrue, and he made a very strong attack on me on that account. I was unable to reply to him at the time. He read into Hansard a letter from a certain individual whom he described as a leading machinery manufacturer. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Tolmie) corrected him in this regard. I take this occasion to refer to the matter for the reason that unless I do correct the Minister of Public Works someone will probably say that the same argument applies to what I am advancing on behalf of Easthope Brothers and the Vivian Gas Engine Company and others. I want the minister and the government to take these representations seriously; it is the duty of the government to consider the welfare of all those who may be affected. If we could give concessions to certain groups, whether fishermen, loggers, or agriculturists, without injuring anyone else and without losing some decided advantage to the country in the way of industry, it would be a simple matter. But if in granting something which is alleged to be an advantage we at the same time put industries out of business and throw bona fide industrial workers on the street, we are doing an injury not only to these individuals but to the whole community, inasmuch as the effect will gradually work round to the very