

flying camp from Borden down to Whitby in his own constituency. Is that man fit to be chairman of the tariff board? I am not talking about his intellectual fitness at all. Is he fit by reason of his record and of his present endeavours to secure a seat in this parliament for the position which he now holds? There used to be a law which provided that one who occupied a position that touched in any way the right of a citizen to vote, should not be permitted to be a candidate for parliament for a period of years after he left office. That was a sound provision. Now we have the tariff board in the hands of a gentleman who is aiming to be a candidate at the next election, in whose constituency there are a large number of industries that have been touched by these tariff changes, whose political friends—and I wish to say the changes in this tariff are surely political—are benefited, by those changes and whose political opponents are injured by them. I say that is not good for Canada; I say it is not a proper thing for this country.

Now let us see what happens. I have the report made by that gentleman. It was tabled in the house as sessional paper 132A, and it is what? It is a statement that they were unable to function with respect to some of these matters, and they sent them up to the minister without a recommendation or without even the finding of a fact with respect to them. The list starts on page 1 of the annex and there are five pages of the various applications, but there is no fact finding, nothing of that sort within the order in council that I have just read. No effort at all is made to comply with the order in council. One of the features of the report will be found on page 2, where the commissioner says:

Unfortunately the civil service, as at present constituted, is not fully equipped to meet the board's technical requirements, and it follows that it would be unfortunate if, in its initial years, the board should be subjected to greater strain than its capacity will bear.

That is the serious and solemn report placed before the minister. It consists of some nine pages and it includes an expression of approval of the assistance that has been given by this person and the other; but there are no findings of fact, nothing upon which a minister could act. I say here and now to the minister that the evidence which was given at those sittings has never been read by him. I know how long it would take him to read it because I took it myself and made an endeavour to read it. These volumes of evidence are calmly transmitted to the minister together with this report and the minister brings in his tariff.

Whose tariff is it? This country has a right to know whose tariff it is. I know one man who did not know anything about it and that is the Minister of Finance himself. But he is learning; since this budget was brought down he is beginning to understand something about it. Let us see how the report complies with the terms and provisions of the order in council. An advisory tariff board is not a new thing, as we shall find. Bill 88 introduced by Sir Thomas White in the parliament of 1911-12 was a bill to create a tariff commission, and under the provisions of section 4 of that act the powers of the commission were defined. They consisted in the right to deal with every phase of our economic life and to determine those factors which should be considered in deciding what tariffs should be allowed. But what have we here? Do you realize, sir, that for the first time in the history of Canada, people outside of this country have assisted in determining what our tariff shall be? I have under my hand the briefs that were filed with the tariff board. By whom are they filled? The first brief on the woollen tariff schedule was filed by representatives of the Canadian Woollen and Knit Goods Manufacturers and there were also filed observations on the brief presented by the Canadian Woollen and Knit Goods Manufacturers, by the wool textile delegation of England on behalf of the federations and associations who are its constituent members.

Mr. YOUNG (Saskatoon): Does the hon. member object to that?

Mr. BENNETT: I certainly do. I object to any man who is not a Canadian having anything to do with fixing our tariff. Let us go a step further. Who also had a hand in it?

Mr. DUNNING: The hon. member knows they will give us a hearing in England.

Mr. BENNETT: Has the hon. member tried it?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, on many occasions.

Mr. BENNETT: They have never had a public hearing at which a Canadian has been asked to appear or give evidence in regard to the Safeguarding of Industries Act. Of course they would give a hearing to the hon. gentleman in England in their offices. They would be glad to welcome him and to talk over anything with him, and a highly intelligent conversation would ensue; but when in the history of this country did you ever see the representative of a competing industry come into Canada and file a brief as has been done in this case?