

duty on ferromanganese and ferrochrome. On boron carbide the duty of twelve and one-half per cent has been cut in half. On hollow drill steel bars valued at eight to twelve cents a pound, which are of substantial importance to a Canadian producer in western Ontario, the rate, which was formerly 20 per cent with a minimum of one and five-eighths cents per pound, has been cut in half, the new rate being 10 per cent with a minimum of seven-eighths of a cent per pound. Iron and steel rails are bound at one-tenth of a cent a pound, and fish plates have been reduced from one-quarter to one-eighth of a cent per pound.

The CHAIRMAN: Have exporters and possible exporters of these products been informed of these reductions, so that they might take early advantage of them?

Mr. KEMP: We have done our best, sir. This material has been published and copies have been widely distributed. In addition, copies of the complete Geneva agreement have been issued to a number of trade organizations, and individual firms can get copies from the Ryerson Press, in Toronto, which I understand is maintaining a supply. We have had a considerable volume of correspondence with a large number of Canadian firms that have written in to ask exactly where they stand.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you noticed any appreciable increase in exports of some of these commodities as a result of the concessions?

Mr. KEMP: It would be pretty early to notice any increase yet, Mr. Chairman, because the concessions became effective only on the 1st of January.

Hon. Mr. KINLEY: Is this arrangement reciprocal? The United States has lowered the rates on our iron and steel going into that country; have we made the same reduction applicable to those goods coming from the United States into Canada?

Mr. McKINNON: The arrangement is not reciprocal on iron and steel, because the United States tariff rates on most iron and steel items, including all the primary forms up to the rolling mill stage, were considerably higher than ours. In many cases the 50 per cent reduction in United States duty would still leave the rate higher than ours, so we did not lower our duty.

Hon. Mr. KINLEY: This applies to Belgium also?

Mr. McKINNON: Yes. The reduction that the United States made would apply to Belgium as well as to Canada, and any reductions that we made would apply to Belgium as well as to the United States. But on iron and steel items in the basic primary forms up to and including rolling mill products we made very little if any reduction, because of the fact that the United States rates were so much higher than ours.

Mr. KEMP: Now, if I may, I will pass on to chemicals. There is a substantial chemical industry in this country, and we obtained maximum reductions in United States duties on acetic anhydride, vinyl acetate and synthetic resins, selenium dioxide and tellurium compounds, aluminum hydronide, ammonium nitrate, calcium carbide, acetylene and other blacks, and salt, with reductions in duties on acetic acid and crude barytes.

The CHAIRMAN: Do honourable members know what most of those items are?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I would ask Mr. Kemp not to read so fast. The only item I understood out of that list was salt.

Mr. KEMP: We would have liked to get a reduction in the duty on refined barytes, which is produced in large volume in Nova Scotia and is used in the process of drilling for petroleum and also in the manufacture of certain paints.