

*Customs Act*

**Mr. McCann:** I can only make a general answer to that question. It would be hard to say in advance what it would apply to. The general answer is that it could be applied to any commodity.

**Mr. Fleming:** That is not quite right, of course, because the bill speaks only of manufactured goods; but surely the government has some cases in mind.

**Mr. McCann:** Any commodity that is included in that category of manufactured goods.

**Mr. Fleming:** Yes. I know to what the bill can be applied, but that is not my question. After all the government, in introducing a measure of this kind, must have had some specific cases of dumping in mind which it is anxious to prevent. Will the minister tell us what that study indicates, as to what manufactured goods are being dumped into Canada today?

**Mr. McCann:** I think the illustration I gave previously is the one that is giving us the most bother; that is textiles.

**Mr. Fleming:** Are there others?

**Mr. McCann:** There could be others.

**Mr. Fleming:** It is not a question of "could be". Are there others? Are there other known cases of dumping to date?

**Mr. Rowe:** Electrical appliances.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** Shoes.

**Mr. Rowe:** Frigidaires.

**Mr. McCann:** I am told that it could apply to any commodity, but we have no segregation of particular lines of goods.

**Mr. Fleming:** I understood the minister to say earlier this afternoon—and if I misapprehended him I wish he would correct me—that shoes were within that category.

**Mr. McCann:** When I said that it was in answer to a statement made yesterday by the hon. member for Greenwood, wherein he challenged the minister to state any other line of goods that it could affect and that were end of the line. Let me say to the hon. member who has just spoken that when there is a change in model, the goods that are left over come under the category of end of the line. I think he will agree with that statement.

**Mr. Adamson:** I am glad to know that.

**Mr. Trainor:** I am concerned with the question of administrative delays under this proposed amendment. In this connection I should like to direct a question to the minister. Will the minister assure the house that

[Mr. Fleming.]

the delays incident to the administration of the bill before the house will not in effect constitute an embargo against imports; and if not, will he undertake to explain why not?

**Mr. McCann:** I can assure the hon. member that it will not constitute an embargo against the importation of any goods. There are few instances in which goods come into this country—and for which they present an invoice and they want to have the customs duty paid—where they take and ship them back to the country of origin. It is all done subject to reappraisal. Where it might interfere with the importation of goods is where an importer would come along and make an inquiry from the officials at a port as to what the duty is going to be on a particular line of goods. It will take some time perhaps before we are able to make an investigation to find whether the goods he has mentioned constitute end of the line or end of the season goods.

**Mr. Trainor:** Suppose a particular article appears at a point of entry and under this bill the appraiser has to make a decision right at once. What happens?

**Mr. McCann:** I have read the regulations, and he will not make a snap decision if he is in any doubt. He will refer it to head office. But except for individuals the general principle is that the business of an importing firm is done through a customs broker, and the customs broker makes a deposit with the Department of National Revenue to cover the indebtedness of his clients so far as duty is concerned. If he wants to take his chances on what the duty may be and wants to have the goods released so he can sell them to retailers, all well and good. He is taking that risk. On the other hand, if he wishes to do so he can wait until a proper appraisal is made and then have his goods released.

**Mr. Trainor:** Do I understand the minister to say that there will be no greater delay under this new method of ascertaining the value of the goods than there has been in the past?

**Mr. McCann:** I do not think I said there would be no greater delay. I did say it may take some time.

**Mr. McCullough (Moose Mountain):** Mr. Chairman, I should like to say that it is with a good deal of hesitation that I support this bill to amend the Customs Act. I do so for the very good reasons that were given by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan.

**The Chairman:** Order. This type of discussion should more properly take place on second reading. Will the hon. member please confine himself to the clause under discussion.