

*Customs Tariff*

Mr. BENNETT: The n.o.p. item is not here.

Mr. DUNNING: No; it is in the tariff generally.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—35. Hops, per pound: British preferential tariff, 6 cents; intermediate tariff, 10 cents; general tariff, 16 cents.

Mr. BARBER: This is an item I am particularly interested in.

Mr. DUNNING: If my hon. friend will permit me, I have overlooked an amendment which comes at this point, in connection with tariff item 29:

Customs tariff—29. Coffee, green, n.o.p.: British preferential tariff, 2½ cents per pound, plus 7½ per cent; intermediate tariff, 3 cents per pound, plus 10 per cent; general tariff, 5 cents per pound, plus 10 per cent.

This proposes the identical increase in the general tariff rate on coffee, green, shipped indirect, to accord with the increase under the budget on such coffee shipped direct. The spread between the two items has been only ten per cent additional on the former. Evasion on the new rate might be possible unless the duty is increased on the former. It is really an inconsequential increase. My colleague will move that.

Mr. ILSLEY: I move that.

Mr. BENNETT: The fact is when we were dealing with similar matters on another occasion the ground was taken that these should appear in votes and proceedings before they are here dealt with at all. It is a little difficult to follow them, and I think it is not desirable to have them dealt with now, because when the bill comes in we shall have an opportunity to do so. I am not raising the issue now. This is an item which increases duties, and while it is inconsequential it nevertheless increases the duties of the general tariff with respect to green coffee.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, I admit it. I followed formerly the practice indicated by my right hon. friend, which I agree at once is desirable. But as a matter of fact there are so very few changes on this occasion that I do not think it will be embarrassing to the committee.

Mr. BENNETT: I am not suggesting it was.

Mr. DUNNING: There are not many changes from the list as provided in the tariff.

Amendment agreed to.

[Mr. Dunning.]

Customs tariff—35. Hops, per pound: British preferential tariff, 6 cents; intermediate tariff, 10 cents; general tariff, 16 cents.

Mr. BARBER: As I have stated, this is an item in which the district I represent is particularly interested. It is an industry which has existed in that district for over forty years, developed from a small acreage of about forty acres to some thirteen hundred acres at the present time. We boast to-day of having on the reclaimed area of the Sumas district the largest single hop garden in the world, six hundred acres. This industry has had difficulties. The product, as hon. members are perhaps aware, is consumed by the brewing industry. Although we have not produced one hundred per cent of what is consumed we have produced up to forty per cent, varying from year to year. We are in a position to produce sixty to eighty per cent.

If the minister had investigated this industry before reducing the tariff he would perhaps have had some information in regard to it. The consumers argue that certain importations are required in order to give the particular blend to the product. But we have gone to considerable trouble to ascertain the quality of our product, and some years ago a number of samples of British Columbia hops were submitted to the Brewers' Academy of New York, with the object of finding out if it was necessary to import foreign hops in order to give a particular blend to the product of the brewery. I have a copy of the report forwarded by that academy in New York clearly stating that the product from British Columbia was of the very highest grade and could be used one hundred per cent in the production of ale, stout and porter, and in the manufacture of lager beer to the extent of sixty-five per cent. We have been very anxious to have this product sold on the Canadian market. In the early days one grower in my district sold his product on the British market, but that cannot be done now because, owing to the British marketing act, they are permitted to import only fifteen per cent of the consumption, and so we are practically shut out of that market. We have been shut out of the American market for some time by a tariff of twenty-four cents a pound. The Canadian tariff, prior to 1930, was seven cents a pound. Hops were being imported from the United States, Czechoslovakia and other European countries at a very low price and affected the industry in our district very considerably. I want to say plainly to the minister that he could find out upon investigation that if it had not been