

Mr. DUNNING: I think probably they did. I bring this forward not by way of creating a controversy or of announcing any proposal to change the law, but as a matter for consideration, arising out of my experience of the last few months, particularly in connection with the preparation of the budget. It is true there is a difference between the method of publicity followed under the present Tariff Board Act and the method of publicity followed in connection with the tariff advisory board, when the party to which I belong was previously in power. The method then followed was of maximum publicity in respect of the hearing and the evidence, but the judgments of the board were never made public. Advice was given by the board to the minister of finance of the day.

Mr. BENNETT: In some cases it was not a matter of record.

Mr. DUNNING: In some cases it was not a matter of record. I am not debating at the moment the relative merits of the different methods. It is obvious that there is quite an essential difference with regard to the treatment of the report from the standpoint of publicity. I just want to leave this with the committee, as I believe the committee and the membership of the house generally is desirous of building up a more scientific approach to our settlement of tariff questions in this house. This matter can never be divorced from politics, as politics is of the essence. We hope to develop a system which will mean an informed public and particularly an informed membership of this house without impairing the necessity of careful protection against abuses which can so easily arise in connection with leaks or possible leaks with respect to the budget.

Mr. BENNETT: There is a distinct difference between a reference to the board by the minister without an application and a reference made in consequence of an application.

Mr. DUNNING: Right.

Mr. BENNETT: It is also different when parties to trade agreements make applications to the board. It does seem to me that if the act is not sufficiently broad, we could deal by regulation with the difficulty to which the minister has directed attention. I shall look this up myself, but at the same time I desire to express the deep regret of all of us who sit on this side that when the act was introduced in the house the hon. gentleman was not a member. The words which he has used this afternoon were almost identical with

those used in the introduction of a measure which I regret to say met with such stalwart opposition from the hon. gentleman who sits to his left.

Mr. DUNNING: My right hon. friend will not let me be non-partisan.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh, yes, delighted. Is there any question of French cotton lace under this item? This matter had not been finally determined at the time we left office.

Mr. DUNNING: We have carefully observed all our trade agreement commitments.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—532. Clothing, wearing apparel and articles made from woven fabrics, and all textile manufactures, wholly or partially manufactured, composed wholly of cotton, n.o.p.; fabrics wholly of cotton, coated or impregnated, n.o.p.: British preferential tariff, 25 per cent; intermediate tariff, 30 per cent; general tariff, 35 per cent; and, per pound: intermediate tariff, 1½ cents; general tariff, 4 cents.

Mr. HEAPS: I assume this item deals with clothing. I have received requests from some of my Scotch friends in the city of Winnipeg for the reduction of the duty on Highland costumes. These people feel that an injustice is being done to the Scotch folk in this country because of the tariff on Highland costumes. I think it was the Minister of Finance who permitted bagpipes to come in free of duty in 1930, and my Scotch friends in Winnipeg feel that if bagpipes can come in free of duty, Highland costumes should also come in free of duty. Where these costumes are brought in for personal use only I think they should be given the same privilege as is given at present to the bagpipes.

Mr. DUNNING: My hon. friend's concern for his Scottish constituents does him credit indeed, but his knowledge of Highland costumes is surely limited when he imagines that such costumes are made of cotton.

Mr. HEAPS: I did not say that.

Mr. DUNNING: This item reads, "composed wholly of cotton."

Mr. HEAPS: Under what classification would Highland costumes come?

Mr. DUNNING: I am inclined to think they would come under the corresponding item in the woollen schedule, which is not before us.

Mr. BENNETT: This does not touch the woollen schedule?