

Mr. MACDONALD: As to the articles in schedule C, are we to understand that the rates of duty when imported from other countries are to be as provided in that schedule, but coming from these islands they are to be free?

Mr. FOSTER: They are now free in Canada. But under this Bill they will come in under preference, and the duty was put on foreign importations for the purpose of giving a preference on these goods from these islands.

Mr. MACDONALD: I notice that schedule C says: 'Duty when imported from any foreign country into Canada.' But they come in free from the islands?

Mr. FOSTER: Under schedule C there is to be duty on cocoa-beans of seventy-five cents per one hundred pounds on foreign imports. But they come in free from these islands. That makes the preference.

Mr. DEVLIN: I speak as representing a large farming community. I find under schedule A, if our farmers wish to sell hay, horses, cheese or butter to the West Indies, the West Indies allow a preferential tariff of thirty-three and one-third per cent. Then, under schedule B, if a Canadian farmer wishes to buy copra cocoanut oil, turtle shell, tamarinds, pea-nuts and kola nuts, bay-leaves, or papine, he will get them at a reduction of thirty per cent, is that right?

Mr. FOSTER: The man who buys turtle shell, pea-nuts and so on will get them as he gets them now, free.

Mr. DEVLIN: But if he wishes to buy lime-juice, or limes or cocoa which is greatly consumed in Canada, he will have to pay a duty where formerly he got them free.

Mr. FOSTER: He will get them free if he gets them from these islands. My hon. friend can put pea-nuts and lime-juice together and make a nice concoction for his farmers.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The hon. minister made some reference to the negotiations preceding this treaty. Who negotiated on behalf of Canada?

Mr. FOSTER: The hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Foster), the hon. the Minister of Finance (Mr. White), and the hon. the Minister of Customs (Mr. Reid)—three worthy gentlemen.

Mr. PUGSLEY: As things go—yes. Were these negotiations carried on publicly or in secret?

Mr. FOSTER: In secret so far as was possible with some fifteen gentlemen in the room. Then, the minutes were taken and set down as a record, and a report was

given out by the chairman after each session—a summary of what had taken place. And all the negotiations, as a matter of record, and what resulted therefrom, have been printed and are in the possession of hon. members.

At six o'clock, House resumed, and then took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock, and again went into Committee.

On section 3—Duties on goods in schedule B.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): I would like to ask the minister a question in connection with clause 3, because the query was put to me by a business man of Halifax quite recently. If West India sugar, entered under the present tariff, was warehoused at Halifax and taken out of warehouse after the new tariff came in force, what duty would it pay?

Mr. FOSTER: Do you mean raw sugar?

Mr. MACLEAN: Yes.

Mr. FOSTER: It would pay exactly the same as it pays now.

Mr. MACDONALD: Before recess the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) was discussing the effect of sub-section (b), which fixes the rate of duty to be paid in future by relation to the British preferential tariff. I notice that this sub-section provides for a variation in the tariff by the use of the words: 'and in any amendment thereof,' and the effect of the last words: 'whichever shall be the lower rate' may be taken as applying to the whole of the two preceding sub-sections or to the last part of sub-section (b). It is open to two constructions.

Mr. FOSTER: That was the Act of 1907, and it was amended in 1908. The two together make the Act of 1907 and the amendment.

Mr. MACDONALD: Are those words used in contemplation of some amendment to the British preferential tariff to be made in the future? I understood the minister to say to the member for Assiniboia that the Government did not contemplate any reduction of the British preference. I would like to know what the effect of that would be in case there was an increase.

Mr. FOSTER: The tariff that would hold would be whatever the tariff was after amendment. It would be the tariff and any amendment thereto.

Mr. MACDONALD: I think the hon. minister ought to be able to tell us whether