

It is interesting to note that the United States tariff against our onions is 2 cents a pound, and now they propose to raise it to 2½ cents a pound. Our tariff against their onions, as I have just stated, is three-quarters of a cent a pound. The grower is being continually advised by officials in the department and by the government to do more in the way of storing his produce rather than rush it on to an unready market in its glut—to be in the position to feed the market as the market requires the goods. In the city of New Westminster recently there was built a cold storage plant, probably the last word in cold storage plants. It was largely assisted by a Dominion government grant and you may be sure, Mr. Speaker, that in their relations with the producer the government has lost no opportunity of instancing this as one more evidence of its intense desire to do everything it can for the producer—not of course in their unregenerate days by doing anything with the tariff, but rather by cold storage. In December last the associated growers of British Columbia placed twenty-seven carloads of Okanagan onions in that cold storage building, onions excellent in quality, in prime condition to serve the spring market. They had incurred storage costs, which are by no means light. They were held for the very reasonable figure of \$40 a ton f.o.b. Around the first of April there was unloaded at the coast 130 tons of New Zealand onions, which entered Canada free under that order in council which the government flipped across the ocean to New Zealand five days after the Woodstock speech, receiving nothing in exchange therefor. What is the good of advising us to store our onions if we are to be met by unfair competition, as we think it, even from the dominions? Following that 130 tons, at a later date came another 50 tons, and we have to market our onions, which have incurred cold storage costs, in competition with onions entering this country free. Australia has a tariff against our onions of \$40 a ton. New Zealand's tariff is considerably less than that. But our doors are open, and the government now, with a magnificent gesture, opens the door to onions from the British possessions, which in future may come in free.

In passing, let us notice cauliflower and celery. Cauliflower is not a commodity which lends itself readily to storage. Celery can be stored, and is stored to a certain extent. The grower asked for a specific duty of 2 cents a pound on these two vegetables. That is the amount which he has been given. But he asked for it during the time of his production and during the time of economic

[Mr. Stirling.]

storage. The duty is to be there all the year round, and it is to be subject to an alternate ad valorem duty of 30 per cent, and both these vegetables, so far as they can, may come in from British possessions free.

Lettuce arrives in boxes. If it arrives in prime condition those boxes contain ice in between the layers of heads. The producer asked for a specific duty of 2 cents a pound for a certain period. He has been given it all the year round with an alternate 30 per cent ad valorem duty, but the producer never for a moment imagined that the ten or twenty pounds of ice contained in that box would also be subject to 2 cents a pound duty. The minister again shakes his head. My evidence is pretty strong on that point, and if the minister will examine it he will find that that is what has been happening since the second of May.

Mr. DUNNING: My advice is to the contrary, but if my hon. friend is correct I can assure him that that will have to be fixed.

Mr. BENNETT: Good. The fixing process has begun.

Mr. STIRLING: Now, will the minister go one step further and fix the emergency tariff? There is another item with regard to strawberries. The grower asked that the rate on strawberries be raised from 2 cents to 3 cents a pound during the eight weeks of his production. The rate has been raised to 3 cents a pound; it is to be in effect all the year round with an alternative 25 per cent ad valorem. The grower fully expected that, as in the past, the tin baskets, the immediate container of the strawberries within the box, would be included in weight for duty. So they are. But he never imagined that the wooden box outside the baskets should also be subject to 3 cents a pound. Those boxes weigh 11 pounds. The trade having to pay 33 cents per box on strawberries for the pleasure of passing that rate on to the consumer, the consumer, when he realizes these little jokers in the budget, must in fairness to the producer not lay the blame on him.

Mr. CHAPLIN: This was to be an "orderly" tariff.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. DUNNING: Perhaps some of the lumbermen over there will have something to say about it.

Mr. BENNETT: The lumber comes from the United States.

Mr. STIRLING: These illustrations I use to make my point that the government in its latter day has set aside its free trade principles