Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement

Mr. DUNNING: I do not want to get mixed up by taking both. Imports from the United States of grapefruit, 29,000,000 pounds, valued at \$777,000, in 1935. From Honduras, which would be British Honduras, I presume, 1,460,000 pounds, valued at \$31,000. That is an error. The Honduras I just mentioned is not British Honduras.

Mr. SPENCE: Spanish Honduras?

Mr. BENNETT: No; it is an independent state.

Mr. DUNNING: Jamaica, 1,173,000 pounds at \$25,000. British Honduras, 815,000 pounds at \$20,000. That is the total of the imports.

Mr. BENNETT: Did not some come from Palestine? I had some myself.

Mr. DUNNING: Too small to be shown.

Mr. HEAPS: I understand that grapefruit coming in under the British preference was free of duty. Is there any reason why there should be a duty of half a cent a pound on grapefruit coming in from the United States? Could it not be put in the same category as the subsequent item, oranges?

Mr. DUNNING: We are precluded entirely from considering that, because of the agreement to maintain the British preference.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): It is reduced fifty per cent now, is it not?

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff-ex 101. Oranges, during the months of January, February, March and April, free.

Mr. DUNNING: The figures of imports are given in cubic feet.

An hon. MEMBER: Let us figure it down to boxes.

Mr. DUNNING: That is in accordance with the tariff item, cubic feet of measurement. From the United States in 1935, 3,744,000 cubic feet, valued at \$4,900,000; from Japan, 228,000 cubic feet, \$488,000; from South Africa, 222,000 cubic feet, \$273,000; from Spain, 129,000 cubic feet, \$98,000; from Jamaica, 90,700 cubic feet, \$65,000; from Palestine, 82,000 cubic feet, \$81,000.

Mr. MacNICOL: Nothing from Australia?

Mr. DUNNING: There were 14,000 cubic feet from Australia.

Mr. MacNICOL: I supposed there were some from Australia, because I have a friend who sells fruit at his store, and I heard him say that the oranges came from Australia. I should like to make an observation or two with reference to those items. As I under-[Mr. MacNicol.] stand the situation, importations from empire countries in connection with the two items I have mentioned, are larger as a result of our empire agreements. I heard the minister say that we are importing from such empire countries as South Africa, Australia, Jamaica, and Palestine.

Mr. DUNNING: Palestine is not an empire country.

Mr. MacNICOL: It would strike me that the result of these duties on these items will be to reduce importations from empire countries and transfer that trade to United States shippers. That opinion is borne out in a couple of editorials I have before me which I should like to read, contained in a book called Reciprocal Trade, just published and sent out from New York, covering the whole forty-eight states as regards the benefits they expect to obtain from these trade agreements. In an editorial, the Enterprise, published at Riverside, California, says this:

California is vitally concerned in the proposal for a reciprocal trade agreement, for the movement of fruits from this state into Canada has been hampered by the tariffs erected by Canada in connection with the Buy Empire movement...

I particularly wish to stress that part of this article, the Buy Empire movement.

The California viewpoint will be on the side of elimination of as many tariffs as possible, for this state has little to lose and much to gain.

Another article, from the Bulletin, of Walla Walla, Washington, states:

Fruit and vegetable growers of this valley and adjoining early crops districts see considerable hope in provisions of the treaty between this country and Canada.... It will possibly require time for Canadian business to reestablish connections on this side of the line to the profit of all concerned. There is no belittling the fact that several years of nationalistic propaganda, "Buy British Empire products," has had its effect north of the boundary.

Another editorial-

Mr. DUNNING: I hope my hon. friend will stick to oranges. There was not much about oranges in the last quotation.

Mr. MacNICOL: This may be regarded as referring to items that went before the item under discussion. What I am trying to point out is that a number of these items are going to interfere, in my opinion, with empire trade. Let us stick to the orange item. I for one would much sooner trade with empire countries than with other countries.

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