

ing the people of the west. If you want to protect these commodities for the sake of your own growers I am entirely in agreement with that, but I am not in agreement with people in one part of Canada using the protection that is given them to exploit a large area of this dominion. These duties that are being imposed and these valuations that are being established are placing that large section of western Canada in such a position that they are unable to purchase these things at all to-day, and the consequence is that the people in this part of the country cannot sell them, nor can the growers in British Columbia sell them to a large extent because of the excess prices that are forced by tariffs and duty valuations. Not long ago, during the last administration I believe, whether it was done by the government or by the Minister of National Revenue I do not know, the system of applying tariffs was changed to a system of regional tariffs on certain fruit and vegetables. So far as I am concerned, as a western member, I would say let us have more of that. Take the three prairie provinces and make them one region in which no tariffs shall be imposed on fruits or vegetables, and let the rest of Canada have their tariffs if they want them.

Mr. SPENCE: A lovely spirit, to kill your brother.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): To keep your brother from being exploited.

Mr. SPENCE: You want to kill the fruit and vegetable man.

Mr. MCGREGOR: I do not see any reason why they cannot grow asparagus in the west; then they would not have to import it.

Mr. DUNNING: They can and do grow it.

Mr. MCGREGOR: Then what is the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross) talking about? If they grow it, they do not need to import it. It has been very amusing to hear some hon. gentlemen discuss this question. With all due respect for my hon. friend from Parkdale (Mr. Spence) I would point out that he is talking from the point of view of a commission man.

Mr. DUNNING: You mean a dealer's point of view?

Mr. MCGREGOR: Call it a broker, then. I have been in business as a grower of vegetables all my life, and it is amusing to hear some of the arguments put up in this house. Surely the minister knows how many people are interested in the vegetable growing

business in this country. He must know that no one in this country works harder than the vegetable grower, that he, his wife and children do not even get a chance to get a decent education, that they have to work from daylight to dark producing vegetables. Then when I pick up this schedule and see that the duty on vegetables coming into this country has been decreased fifty per cent, I just wonder what this government is going to do. Surely they do not intend to put these people out of business. There are thousands of market gardeners in my constituency who are on relief, even with the protection the industry has had during the last five years, so what can they expect in the next five years? Let us forget about politics. I hope the minister will give this matter serious consideration, and that when the time comes the duty will be imposed as it has been in the past.

Mr. DUNNING: My hon. friend from East York (Mr. McGregor) is a vegetable grower, and I understand also represents a large number of them. With respect to his fears, I have before me a quotation from an address by Mr. L. F. Burrows, the secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Horticultural Council, which I believe speaks to some extent at any rate for a large body of fruit and vegetable growers. He says:

I am satisfied that from the standpoint of the producer of fruit and vegetables in Canada the provisions of this agreement offer with few exceptions ample protection to our industries, provided the values for duty are fixed as contemplated and are effective early enough to protect the market prior to our products becoming available.

I think one can take that as an average expression of view.

Mr. BAKER: What was the date of that speech? Was it before this agreement?

Mr. DUNNING: It was an address made at the recent annual meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association in Toronto. I have not the date.

Mr. MCGREGOR: I should think the first thing we had better do is to inquire just who this man Burrows is and who pays him, and how many different salaries he is getting throughout this country. I understand he is paid by this government to start with; he is also paid by certain commission houses in Toronto, and I do not know how many other salaries he is getting. When this gentleman gets up and ventures an opinion he certainly is not speaking for the fruit growers of this country. He is backing up the opinions that the government wants him to back up.