

the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Garland) spoke about the treaty he mentioned the fact that Greece owed us something, and it might be better to get our payment from Greece in that way. There may be something in that argument.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): It was a good speech, was it not?

Mr. BROWN: Yes, it was a good speech. I am citing these figures to show that in the matter of currants the purpose of the treaty has been accomplished in a very large measure, and without laying the burden upon the consumers of currants, as we had feared would be the case. I find that under the present rate of duty as applied to importations of currants, we paid a total of \$16,004.58, while if the old rates of duty had been applied the duty would have totalled \$23,502.73. So we have accomplished the purposes of the treaty with regard to currants; we have switched the trade from Greece to Australia, and even under the 3 cent duty on importations from other countries we are paying less in customs duties than we would have paid under the old rates.

Mr. EVANS: Does the hon. gentleman know whether the Australian raisins and currants are sold that much cheaper in this country?

Mr. BROWN: I am speaking only of currants at the moment and so far as I am able to see the price of currants has not materially changed. Under any circumstances that point could not be taken so long as we are getting them in free of duty; there might be some argument if the duty were still high, but since the duty is low the point need not be considered at all.

I will admit that the case is not nearly so well proven in regard to raisins, but there are indications in that direction. During 1925 our chief imports of raisins came from the United States, and amounting to 41,232,094 pounds.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): What was the rate of duty then?

Mr. BROWN: Two-thirds of a cent per pound. In the calendar year 1929 the importations from the United States had fallen to 33,176,914 pounds. While I know it is not possible to make a fair comparison by simply taking two years, yet over the whole period there is an indication that our imports from the United States have been going down while the imports from Australia have been increasing. We imported about 8,000,000 pounds

[Mr. Brown.]

less from the United States, while our imports from Australia increased from practically nothing to 6,032,162 pounds.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Would the hon. member tell us the rate on raisins coming from the United States now?

Mr. BROWN: Three cents per pound.

Mr. CHAPLIN: And the duty on over 33,000,000 pounds of raisins amounted to over \$1,000,000.

Mr. BROWN: That is so. I want to give all the statistics and be fair. It was suggested to me that in a measure the United States were absorbing that duty. I do not know whether that assumption is correct; I am not going to say, and I am not going to base an argument on an assumption, but starting with that assumption I made an investigation and found that while we paid 7 cents per pound for our raisins in the United States in 1925, in 1929 we were paying 5 cents per pound.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Raise the duty a little higher and perhaps you will get them for nothing.

Mr. BROWN: I know that is not conclusive, but it does seem an indication at least that the United States is determined to hold this trade.

Mr. CHAPLIN: This must be a case where the producer pays the duty.

Mr. BROWN: Perhaps it is.

Mr. MANION: Remember that when we are discussing the budget.

Mr. BROWN: Possibly it may be such a case. I am simply trying to state the facts. It is a fact that the raisins we buy in the United States come to Canada for 2 cents a pound less than was the case previously. It is true that we are paying 3 cents a pound duty, but that is a difference between 3 cents and two-thirds of a cent, which is nearly 2 cents. I am giving only the prices which appear in the trade returns, and these are the only prices we have to go by. If hon. members look up the figures I think they will find my calculation is correct.

Mr. CHAPLIN: The law of supply and demand has nothing to do with the price.

Mr. BROWN: This is significant in view of the statement made last night by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) when he spoke of the great market for California raisins created by the making