

Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement

Mr. DUNNING: Under the agreement the maximum would be four-fifths of a cent per pound.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): If it is less than one cent it would aggravate the case still more, but taking it at four-fifths of a cent there is a duty value of \$1.69. Then there is the regular duty of fifteen per cent, which would amount to twenty-five cents. Then there is a dump not to exceed fifty per cent.

Mr. BENNETT: There is no dump where there is a special duty.

Mr. DUNNING: That is quite correct. In his previous illustration my hon. friend was in error when he used the dump.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): It amounts almost to that.

Mr. BENNETT: No; there is no dump duty where there is a special duty.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): If it were carried out it would be forty-four cents. Then you have the excise duty of three per cent, which is six cents; total tax, seventy-five cents. Then there is the present duty on the invoice along with that, which would be sixty cents. Then there is the freight. One of the greatest difficulties, which has been overlooked in estimating the protection for British Columbia, is the freight. The freight from California would be \$1.02 and the freight from British Columbia twenty-three cents, a difference of seventy-nine cents, in addition to the other protection. That gives them a protection of 123.2 per cent, a tremendous protection. It is not a protection but an embargo on that article as well as on the other of which articles we spoke. If we assume it to be true that there is no dump duty, this would lower the percentage a little, but even at that it is entirely out of reason. It makes it so that we in the western provinces are practically prohibited from using this article. There is another sound reason why we should have a regional protection. If British Columbia wants protection I have no objection, but I say that we in the prairie provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, should not be penalized to that extent.

Mr. BRADETTE: I cannot accept the statement of the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Baker) that celery and similar vegetables are eaten only in cities and towns. He does not know his own province. Does he not realize that the settlers and miners of northern Ontario eat celery?

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BAKER: Consumed mostly in cities and large towns.

Mr. BRADETTE: In northern Ontario we have such towns as Timmins with over 20,000 people; we do not produce celery in that northern section and we are being penalized. Settlers in northern Ontario and northern Quebec are paying through the nose under seasonal tariffs. We do not want our own farmers to be hurt, but our settlers, the working men, the miners, must also be considered. Apparently there is a class of people in this house who will be satisfied with only one situation; they do not look at these things nationally. They mentioned soya beans yesterday.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. BRADETTE: The leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) covered the whole field before recess.

The CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. member to confine his remarks to the item under discussion, which is celery.

Mr. BRADETTE: Well, I will keep to celery, which includes all vegetables. I say again that as far as the farmers in every section of northern Canada are concerned, in most cases under the seasonal tariff they have to pay higher prices than they should, and not for their own protection, for they have no protection whatever. In this matter we should take a national point of view, and not see it only from the point of view of those sections in which vegetables and fruit are produced.

Mr. POULIOT: After dinner celery is better than pork and beans.

Mr. BAKER: I stand by what I said.

Sub-item (g) agreed to.

Customs tariff—87. Vegetables, fresh, in their natural state:

(h) Cucumbers, 15 per cent.

Mr. BENNETT: What are the rates?

Mr. DUNNING: Three cents a pound under the present United States tariff; twenty-five per cent ad valorem under the tariff prior to 1930.

Mr. BENNETT: And the extra duty value at present is how much?

Mr. DUNNING: Prior to the agreement, 3½ cents; under the agreement, 2½ cents.

Mr. BENNETT: For what period of time? The whole year?