

*Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement*

observation the hon. member made was not pertinent. I have had that up before, and I know what I am talking about. I am sorry I cannot do what is requested.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): I contend, Mr. Chairman, that the language of the right hon. gentleman was unparliamentary and it should be withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN: With all due respect to the leader of the opposition and his long parliamentary experience, I think he should withdraw the remark.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, as an old member of this house I owe a duty to the Chair, and I accept the ruling of the Chair. That is all I say. I am bound to do that, but if you, Mr. Chairman, will be good enough to look up the rules I think you will modify the statement you have made. A flat contradiction, such as was made by the hon. gentleman as a basis of any observation, is out of order; let us have no misunderstanding about that.

I was pointing out that the statement was made that the Liberal party when in office would remove these valuations. I have the speeches that were made in parliament from time to time, and time and again that was stated by the Liberal party in opposition.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): On asparagus?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, and on other kinds of vegetables. It will be found in the record of the last five years. The point was made with respect to asparagus, that it was a vegetable which matured early in the United States, the surplus could be shipped here and the people could utilize it, and that the fixing of a valuation made the price so high that the people did not get asparagus as early as they otherwise would have. That was the contention. Against that was the large investment in glass and in asparagus beds. The hon. member for East York (Mr. McGregor) has pointed out that it takes four years to develop asparagus beds. Be that as it may; I do not know, but I do know that in western Canada I have seen very fine asparagus beds, some of the very finest beds I know of, developed over the last few years, and this takes several years.

But this point is clear: If in this country you are to permit the climatic conditions of the United States to destroy those who are engaged in the production of asparagus, all you have to do is to pursue the course which in opposition the Liberal party said that it proposed to do. Now we are told

[Mr. Bennett.]

this afternoon that the minister himself has made an order, and under the rules of the house, he must, being a minister of the crown and quoting from a document, table that document. I am curious to see how he made his computations. They must have been based upon the value. What was the value? If the valuation was too high or too low the computation would be affected accordingly. Those computations with respect to asparagus and all these other matters must, under our rules, be laid on the table.

Mr. ILSLEY: Six cents a pound—I said that.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the price on the invoice.

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the price. I happen to know something of it because one session a very vigorous attack was made with respect to these matters, and on the platform the same thing took place. Here is asparagus at six cents; that is the price offered at the end of the season in the United States. Mark you, to-day is the twelfth of March, and asparagus has been on the market in Ottawa for at least this last week or more. I do not know at what price per pound it came in, but I do know that it has come in from the United States and has been offered on our market. The price gradually diminishes because it is a seasonal crop, and there comes a time when you can no longer cut the asparagus from the bed. But up to the time that they can no longer cut it from the bed it is shipped to this country from the United States at steadily decreasing prices until, at last, the final cut taken from the bed is shipped to Canada at a very low price, and that is the reason we have a seasonal tariff. That is the reason this country has imposed a tariff upon asparagus cut from those beds, with our beds not yet or just about coming into production, and our asparagus growers would not be able to meet that foreign competition unless provision were made in our tariff. Provision was made in our tariff originally by Mr. Fielding. It is true that it was not utilized by him. The present Prime Minister repudiated the action of one of his colleagues with respect to it and said: The very thought that a man should be charged with the power and discretion to deal with tariffs in this way was offensive to the very idea of parliamentary institutions. That was said time and time again; it will be found in Hansard prior to 1930. Some hon. members will remember the great delegation that met