

fixing values for duty purposes is concerned, because it is impossible for a man doing business to know when the stuff will come in. I am not particularly condemning the minister, because he would be advised by some understudy who does not know what he is advising and would not know the best sources from which to get information. I hope the minister will take steps towards a solution of the difficulty.

I do not know why the Minister of Finance did not have a discussion of all these commodities at one time, because had he done that we could have passed them all. The proposed action is against the interests of the people of Canada, because on account of their more favourable climatic conditions it is impossible for us to compete with the United States in growing articles of this kind. In some states they can grow two or three crops a year, whereas in Canada we grow only one, and that with a great deal of difficulty. How is it possible for us to compete with them? If the government wish to protect the primary producer, about whom they do so much talking, let them begin right here. They say they wish to protect the wheat grower, but they have forgotten all about the fellow in Ontario who digs in the soil from sunrise to sunset and who works harder than any man in the west ever worked.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. SPENCE: You know nothing about work. Go and watch the truck farmers between Toronto and Niagara Falls work from sunrise to sunset—and they work during the whole of a working day; they are not sitting on a machine, as does the man who is ploughing a field. Very few hon. members do any hay pitching; they have machines to do everything.

Mr. DUNNING: Before this Donnybrook goes any farther may I suggest that we are talking about asparagus. I know what will happen in a very few minutes.

Mr. SPENCE: I did not intend to talk about other things, but hon. members injected some remarks which caused me to reply. I protest against the cut from 30 per cent. What is the necessity for it? There is no demand for it. Thirty per cent means nothing; it simply means a percentage on the net cost in Texas, or Tennessee, or wherever it comes from. This year we have thousands of boxes of good red carrots—

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member must confine his remarks to the subject under discussion.

[Mr. Spence.]

Mr. SPENCE: Why did we not discuss all of them? They are in the same category. I suggest that the committee is losing time. However, I shall obey your ruling, Mr. Chairman, and will not mention carrots. It will all depend entirely on what the government does, whether they intend to impose a dumping duty on asparagus before our own comes in, and do it at the proper time, upon advice from proper authorities. May I ask the minister whether he intends to impose a dumping duty to save our asparagus growers?

Mr. DUNNING: My hon. friend is, I know, an expert. Does he think such a valuation should be imposed now?

Mr. SPENCE: No, but we should know what the minister's intention is.

Mr. DUNNING: What would be your intention?

Mr. SPENCE: My intention would be that you should tell us right now what you are going to do, so that the people in the industry would know what to do and how to speculate. But to-day everything is so uncertain from the point of view of the government interfering and tinkering with tariffs that nobody knows what to do, and you are putting people out of business by the hundreds by the system you are following.

Mr. DUNNING: I was asking advice, Mr. Chairman, from an acknowledged expert as to what date he thinks a value for duty purposes should be imposed with respect to asparagus. I am asking for that advice from him now.

Mr. SPENCE: I could not tell you the date, and no man is wise enough to know it, unless you can tell me what the good Lord is going to do in the matter of weather. Asparagus will sometimes shoot up as long as that pencil on some hot nights and has to be cut immediately. If you leave it to me, I can give you definite information within two days, but you won't ask me, and nobody else in the house can give it to you except myself.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): I do not want to start any controversy between one part of this country and another, but now that we are on these items it might be well for the committee to remember that there is a large section between the great lakes and British Columbia which grows very few vegetables, asparagus or any other vegetables or fruits. If this house wants to impose a high value for duty purposes or a high tariff on these commodities, the people of Canada do not want them imposed for the purpose of exploit-