

Mr. LESAGE: That does not answer the question completely because after all if you add the period at the end of 1946, with the corresponding period in 1947, and then doing the same thing, dividing the volume of business for the last period in 1947, and the three first periods of 1948, then you are spreading—I am spreading the quota now, and it does not bear out what you have said.

The WITNESS: That is right, except this Mr. Lesage, do you see; our volume of business starting in the month—I will clarify it for you, I don't want to create the impression that overnight our business dropped by 75 per cent—but during the year's operation—I will point out to you and clarify it—it will drop 75 per cent. We are the largest handlers of tomatoes in the city of Montreal and normally handle about \$200,000 of tomatoes; and as I told you before, 90 per cent of our business is importations. Now, out of all the commodities that we have to handle in the imported merchandise we only have a 30 per cent quota on oranges, lemons and grapefruit. That means that our volume of cherries, strawberries, asparagus, lettuce, tomatoes, cauliflower, spinach and beans—all imported stuff—will be eliminated. So even if it does not show up for the first three months I can assure you that by the time the year is out, that in comparison with our preceding year that difference will show up.

Mr. THATCHER: Of course, you are only down 17 per cent.

By Mr. Lesage:

Q. Now, in order to understand what you are saying, is it correct to say that it would be in May and June that the heaviest volume of your business would be down?—A. That is right. Our biggest sales of these commodities I mentioned are March, April, May and June.

Q. Yes. I can see that by your last year's operations.—A. One of our big items is California grapes—whereas as a matter of fact during the month of June, July and August the commodities we handle, of that amount they would be about 75 per cent of our tonnage—that is California deciduous, and cantaloupes and honey dews. Well, all that is eliminated.

Q. So it would be correct to say that your business has not dropped 75 per cent yet, but you expect that for the 1948 calendar year it will be down by 75 per cent as compared with 1947?—A. I think that would be the better way of putting it.

Q. That is an expectation but not a fact which is true now.—A. It is based on commodities which we have in sight.

Q. It is based on what you know now?—A. That is right.

By Mr. Thatcher:

Q. Under this embargo is there any other fruit you can import, grapefruit, lemons or oranges; I mean, could you not go to some South American countries for instance to import some of these things, or Cuba? Are not there alternative sources?—A. The only thing you can import from there is lemons from Italy, and they insist on American currency which we can get.

Q. Then you will be able to get lemons?—A. From Italy, yes; and we can get oranges from Brazil, but the difficulty with that is that we can't get steamer facilities.

Q. How about grapefruit from Australia, won't you be able to get it there?—A. We never have.

Q. Why?—A. We never have got there. I do not know if they produce them, and if they could I would not even venture to bring them in because they haven't got refrigerator steamships and the voyage takes from 6 to 7 weeks.

Q. I was wondering if there were some alternative sources from which you could secure some of these commodities?—A. Very few, of which I know.

Mr. FLEMING: I would like to hear your comment on that.