

Mr. DUNNING: I will see what we have in our suitcases to confirm that or otherwise. It sounds big to me.

Mr. BENNETT: As a result of the tariff of 1930 the importations were less of Campbell's soups and Heinz's beans.

Mr. STEWART: I was giving the figures of canned fruits and vegetables. I do not know whether the minister has them separately or not, but they seem to have been a very considerable item in 1929.

Mr. BENNETT: There is no reduction in the United States on three cents a pound?

Mr. DUNNING: No.

Mr. STIRLING: Will European countries to which the minister referred just now enjoy the two cents a pound?

Mr. DUNNING: They always have, if they come in under the intermediate tariff.

Mr. BENNETT: Italy had the most favoured nation treaty.

Mr. DUNNING: The statistics we have available go back only to 1931. In that year \$38,000 worth of canned beans were imported from the United States.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): The duty on canned beans has been reduced 33½ per cent?

Mr. DUNNING: We have reduced it from three cents to two cents, incidental to the granting of the intermediate tariff.

Mr. BENNETT: That is 33½ per cent, is it not?

Mr. DUNNING: I prefer to state it in actual terms.

Mr. BENNETT: Is not that "actual terms"? The minister has very strange views about this. He uses percentages very frequently. A reduction from three cents to two cents is a reduction of 33½ per cent.

Mr. DUNNING: Will my right hon. friend let me tell him a little story to lighten the tedium of the committee's work, and to explain my objection?

Mr. BENNETT: The chair would have to be consulted about that.

Mr. DUNNING: The point being percentages, which is of course akin to this item of beans. Perhaps I had better not, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. STIRLING: Instead, would the minister tell us what the exports were to the United States?

Mr. DUNNING: I gave the import figure of 58,600 pounds. We exported 4,000,000 pounds.

Mr. BENNETT: Thanks to the British preference.

Mr. WALSH: As regards this item, during the course of the debate preceding these items, I voiced an objection in connection with specific and ad valorem duties. I want to express my opinion that the specific duties are not fair and reasonable. To-day, a specific duty of two cents a pound might represent a protection of twenty-five per cent. Next year, one cent a pound might represent a protection of fifty per cent. The percentage varies. I would rather have something more stable.

Another point I would like to make is that I consider this is one item at least on which we could put on a very heavy, in fact a prohibitive duty, because surely we can grow a sufficient quantity of beans in this country to provide work for our own people in growing them and in canning them. Moreover, this would stimulate a certain amount of business in the manufacture of cans and other incidentals in connection with the canning industry. I urge upon the attention of the Minister of Finance whether it is not possible to introduce into our tariff system a prohibitive duty that would not in any way increase the cost of the commodity to the consumer, but at the same time would force production in Canada sufficient to meet our own needs, and stimulate industries that are indirectly interested in this particular feature of our tariff.

Mr. DUNNING: In Canada last year we produced 34,000,000 pounds of baked beans, which are dealt with in this item. Our imports from the United States were 42,000 pounds. We exported to the United Kingdom last year 4,000,000 pounds. Our bean producers and packers are evidently able to deal with the situation pretty effectively.

Mr. BENNETT: The British preference gives them the market. They did not have it before.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): The minister has said that we exported about 4,000,000 pounds and we imported only 42,000 pounds.

Mr. DUNNING: Canned beans, yes.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): Why does the minister think that is a sound reciprocal agreement, to reduce the duty 33½ per cent, when we have plants at Collingwood, Leamington.