

I have made, namely, that free entry means freedom from restriction. It does not say free from duties, because the commission, and the legislation arising out of the report of the commission, might provide for some quantitative restriction and so on. In other words, it does not follow that the legislation will necessarily consist of restrictive measures by tariffs. That does not follow; it may be but we do not know. But whatever restrictions are placed on foreign bacon and hams, which it is the intention of the British government to impose in the interests of the British producer, they will not apply to Canada. That is to say, Canada will have freedom from such restrictions.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): These explanations are rather confusing. As I read this article I formed the impression that under any circumstances we had free entry for 2,500,000 hundredweight apart from anything that might appear in the report of the commission, and that if the commission reported that they would have to impose a duty on some foreign bacon, that would be aside from this. The point I want to get at is this. Does this not mean that now, under the provisions of this agreement, we have entry for bacon up to 2,500,000 hundredweight?

Mr. STEVENS: It will be noted that we have free entry, from the tariff standpoint, under article 1. But this article deals with prospective legislation not decided upon at the time the agreement was made, the commission, at that time, not yet having completed its hearings. Therefore the provision is for free entry of Canadian bacon and hams, pig products, into the British market, irrespective of any restrictions that may be imposed against the foreign product, and entry free from tariffs is provided for under article 1.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Do I understand that the report referred to in this section has not been received by any member of this government up to the present time?

Mr. STEVENS: I understand that a copy of the report came forward today, and I pointed out that we had not had time for the officers of the government fully to study the report. It will take considerable time to do so.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Will that report be made available for the members of the house?

Mr. STEVENS: I see no objection to that at all.

[Mr. Stevens.]

Mr. ELLIOTT: Would it not be advisable to have an opportunity of considering that report before disposing of this article?

Mr. STEVENS: I submit to my hon. friends opposite that that would not advance us to any extent. The legislation that may be decided upon by the British government is not yet known. It will be based on the report, which I am told is voluminous, and naturally so inasmuch as it took several months to prepare it. But suppose we took that report in this committee and began the process of analyzing it: personally I think it would be better if we were determined to do such a thing to refer it to the committee on agriculture where it could be dealt with. But even if we completed all that, we should still be at sea because we do not know what decision the British government will make as regards the legislation to be based on the report.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Is there any undertaking from the British government that they will introduce legislation?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): In passing, I wish to correct an impression left by the hon. member for Melville. I have not at any time, either before or since the conference, advocated a campaign for increased hog production, whether the price was two cents or any other price. I feel that that can be best left to the intelligence of the average farmer, and in the discussion we seem to have forgotten this possibility. Prior to the imperial conference, Sir John Gilmour, then Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for the United Kingdom, gave the following pledge on behalf of the government: That a commission would be set up and when the report of that commission was submitted they would take whatever steps they felt necessary to put the pig industry in the United Kingdom upon a paying basis. The commission has submitted its report, and the fundamental idea running through its recommendation is that they will restrict the total importation of bacon into the United Kingdom.

Mr. BROWN: There will be a quota against other countries.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Against other countries, and there may be also a quota against the dominions of the British Empire at least in some classes of meats. As a matter of fact, there is already a quota or quantitative restriction agreed upon between the United Kingdom and Australia with reference to lamb and mutton. It was because at the time of the imperial conference the report