

Supply—Agriculture

should be given to this industry and if possible the dumping duty regulations should be enforced when necessary. I feel that as long as we can grow first-class fruit in the valley we should be given the preference in the domestic market. Another resolution was passed as follows:

Whereas for many years the government of Australia has imposed an embargo against the import of Canadian apples on the ground that fire blight might be carried to Australian orchards, and

Whereas horticulturists agree that it would be impossible to transmit fire blight through shipments of packed apples.

The resolution goes on to ask the government to take steps to have this embargo removed, and I support that resolution. I feel that we have been most generous with the Australian people. Last year and the year before we carried on certain trade with Australia. All the imports from Australia were agricultural products while all the exports from Canada were manufactured goods. I think a balance should be arrived at whereby a break could be given to the fruit growers of British Columbia.

At the same time the Australians have been sending onions into British Columbia duty free. A shipload of No. 1 hard arrived in Vancouver last year. Our first crop of onions are not No. 1 hard; they do not reach that grade until they are matured. Our onions had to go on the market in competition with the Australian No. 1 hard with the result that in the opening week our price had to be dropped from \$60 per ton to \$40 per ton, which the growers claim is \$2.50 per ton less than the cost of production.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Jones: Before the recess I was speaking of some of the difficulties encountered by the fruit and vegetable growers of Canada in regard to the importation of certain agricultural commodities, resulting in depressed prices generally. I realize that the government is faced with certain difficulties, and particularly the Department of Agriculture, in putting a stop to this condition. I have in mind an instance last year when United States carrots were imported into Canada long before ours were ready. They were brought in in such vast quantities that naturally our carrot growers were anxious to know if the market was going to be flooded. The minister co-operated to the fullest extent by placing a stop order on the importation of United States carrots as soon as ours were ready, but unfortunately the damage was caused by allowing importation in such vast quantities that they were put in cold storage

throughout the dominion and kept there in order that they might be released week by week. That practice went on for several weeks.

As our young carrots came on the market, United States carrots stored prior to the stop order were used to depress the market. I realize the difficulty in meeting that situation. Possibly drastic action would have to be taken by allowing the importation of quantities sufficient only for the immediate needs of the market, and not for storage purposes.

The same is true of the importation of soft fruits, particularly in the province from which I come, where apricots, peaches, and other soft fruits are brought in from California and the state of Washington. They are more or less dumped in British Columbia because the best market for United States products, as for our own, is in their home country. After the home market is supplied, the residue is usually dumped in another country. That has been particularly true of peaches and apricots along the border between British Columbia and the state of Washington. We are very anxious to stop this practice, because we have an industry that is growing rapidly and is expanding far more than we thought was possible. I have figures for peaches, apricots, et cetera, but I will only mention peaches. In the year 1939 we had 503,000 packages and in the year 1947 we had close to 2,000,000. In the current year that amount will be greatly exceeded.

"Dumping" probably is not the correct word to use, but it is one that might be applied to the existing condition where fruit is allowed to enter the country at a lower price in competition with our own. Vegetables also enter in the same manner. I have a letter here from the British Columbia Pea Growers Limited. They are speaking not only on their own behalf but on behalf of the pea growers of Alberta, Ontario, and other parts of Canada where peas are grown. I will not read the whole letter, but in part they point out that:

... prices of peas have been arrived at in a very logical manner. They have been scaled to give a return to the farmer on a parity with what he could get growing wheat on the same land. Therefore they have tried to keep that price in order to induce the farmer to grow peas. There is a tie-up between the price of peas and the price of wheat. This year a serious threat to the Canadian dried pea business is posed by the surplus of peas in the United States.

The letter points out that there are many bags of peas left over from last year's crop, and there is a large increase in the crop of peas for the current year. The letter goes on to say:

The impact of this situation has been felt here where samples of last year's whole dried green peas