

Mr. BENNETT: What was the rate?

Mr. DUNNING: The maximum value was four cents.

Sub-item (f) agreed to.

Customs tariff—87. Vegetables, fresh, in their natural state:
Eggplant, free.

Mr. McGREGOR: I should like to ask the minister just why eggplants come in free.

Mr. DUNNING: I have no particulars of production in Canada; it is so small as to be not of record.

Mr. McGREGOR: I will admit that until the last few years very few eggplants were produced in this country, for the simple reason that the growers did not think the season was long enough to produce them. In the past two years, however, they have been very successfully produced even in my own riding, which is in the vicinity of Toronto, and there are other places in the country much better fitted for the growth of these vegetables. They have been produced very successfully, but certainly they will not be produced, because of the short season we have in Ontario, if the duty is taken off entirely.

Mr. BENNETT: What is the rate of duty on eggplant entering the United States?

Mr. DUNNING: It is 1½ cents per pound at the present time. Before 1930 it was twenty-five per cent ad valorem.

Sub-item agreed to.

Customs tariff—87. Vegetables, fresh, in their natural state:

(g) Celery, 15 per cent.

Mr. BAKER: What was the value of celery imported from the United States last year?

Mr. DUNNING: In 1935 we imported 12,014,000 pounds valued at \$357,000. The rate of duty going into the United States is two cents per pound; before 1930 it was twenty-five per cent ad valorem.

Mr. BAKER: There is one point that has impressed me in listening to this discussion, but we are speaking about celery now, so I will confine my remarks to that subject. The government are lowering the duties on many vegetables. We have not been given all the figures, but no doubt they would total millions of dollars. The celery we import is consumed largely in the cities and large towns of Canada; generally speaking the farmers do not buy much celery. In these cities and large towns where the celery is consumed we have hundreds of thousands of unemployed, able-bodied men. **Adjacent**

to these cities and towns we have thousands of acres of land practically idle. To me it appears very inconsistent—and I submit this idea to the government and the Minister of Labour—to go on in this way. Would it not be better to increase the duties on celery and these other items and, instead of importing these vegetables to the extent of millions of dollars, put these men to work growing vegetables? I submit that this is a reasonable suggestion, and I offer it to the Minister of Labour.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): In connection with celery also, I should like to point out that this is a matter in which the west is vitally concerned. It is true that some of our celery comes from the east, but experience has shown that even though the celery is sent to the west in refrigerator cars it will not stand the transportation, and as a result we in the west are penalized. In British Columbia the same condition exists in connection with celery that exists in connection with the other article of which I spoke; here again there is such excessive protection that we are practically prohibited from having celery. It is true that we raise a certain amount of celery ourselves, but the production is very much limited and is not nearly sufficient to take care of the demand. Some celery may be grown in Manitoba, but there is not sufficient to supply our markets at the time we demand it. Celery is not a luxury any more; it has become almost a necessity, and I do not think we should be penalized in this regard. Some is grown in the Okanagan valley of British Columbia, but that supply lasts for only a short period, and when we in the west are urgently in need of that vegetable it cannot be secured in sufficient quantities to supply our market; in fact, when the merchants send for it they can secure only three or four boxes out of a carload shipment, and that is not sufficient to maintain our markets. I should like to point out how utterly impossible it is for us to carry on under these conditions. This is how it works out: Taking the weight as fifty-five pounds, at the same rate the invoice would be \$1.25. I may be a little wrong in my figures, but this serves just as an illustration.

Mr. DUNNING: Prior to the agreement the advance in invoice value on celery was one cent per pound maximum, applied last year from July 10 to November.

Mr. BENNETT: The minimum, not the maximum?