

1923 there was a good deal of camouflaging done in this matter. We have a great line of fruit importing houses throughout Canada and these establishments are very keen to obtain fruit from the other side for the reason that there is more money in it for them. They simply sell the fruit and receive their commission and the price is a matter of indifference to them. In 1923 these houses were called upon to pay the penalty and they paid it. But what happened? They went up to one wicket and put down their money in payment of the anti-dumping penalty, and they went around immediately to another wicket to the Minister of Customs and got it back. That is the way the government has been fooling the people continuously from 1921 on.

I want to show to this House what the result of all this has been, and I shall give my authority. Someone may suggest that I am making a wild statement, but I can assure hon. members that I am well within the mark. This government appointed Mr. Lewis Duncan to investigate the importation and distribution of foreign fruit, and on page 109 of his report he makes this statement:

Dumping duty is not often imposed on imported fruits and your commissioner has found no case in which remission of the duty has been refused if applied for.

So much for that. Let me show now what the effect has been. The British Columbia government maintains in the prairie provinces an official who is known as the markets commissioner, whose duty it is to keep the farmers and the fruit growers of the province informed as to the condition of the prairie markets. He tells them what quantities of fruit it is advisable to ship, and what varieties. That information is given to the public in a weekly bulletin, a copy of which I have here. This bulletin which is published under the title the Markets Bulletin, contains an interesting statement in its issue of September 5, in which a warning is given to the fruit growers of the province of British Columbia in regard to the unfair competition to which the Canadian industry is subjected. The commissioner said that the market was then flooded with Italian prunes from Oregon and Washington, and the stores were loaded up with them, so that it was useless to send any more. But that is not the worst of it. Let me quote some more to emphasize my remarks in regard to the commission houses and their anxiety to handle United States fruits. The markets commissioner concludes:

It would appear that it pays certain interests better to push the sale of imported fruits in preference to British Columbia stuff.

He admits right there that it is more advantageous to these houses to handle the imported product. Just before this particular bulletin was received, an unfortunate farmer along the lakes where I happened to be travelling at the time received this cheque which I hold in my hand. I have kept it, for it is a rather pleasing souvenir of the last campaign. It is for the sum of eighty-eight cents and had the farmer taken it to the bank he would have had to pay ten cents in exchange. Now that eighty-eight cents represents the net return on six crates of plums shipped by this poor farmer before he happened to receive that copy of the Markets Bulletin. Just fancy! Eighty-eight cents for six crates of plums, and the crates in which he packed the fruit cost him \$1.20, or twenty cents apiece. That is one result of the dumping of surplus United States fruits into Canada.

Let me indicate one more result of this dumping. For the fiscal year ended March 31, 1925, there were dumped into Canada from the United States apples, pears, peaches, plums, vegetables, fresh and canned, and potatoes to an aggregate value of \$10,000,000. All this was unloaded on this country simply as a result of the removal of the anti-dumping penalty which, as I have already pointed out, was the greatest protective measure which the farmers and fruit growers of Canada have ever had. You can readily appreciate what it would have meant to this country if that \$10,000,000 had been kept on this side instead of being paid for the United States products. There would have been the distribution of wages for the clearing of land and the cultivating of the trees, in addition to the building of fences, the making of boxes, the packing of the fruit, the transportation and so forth. Had it not been for the abolition of the anti-dumping penalty that \$10,000,000 would, through various channels, have been distributed in British Columbia. During the year 1925 there was a constant stream, not carloads but trainloads, of surplus fruit from Oregon and Washington passing across the line at the port of Kingsgate to the prairie markets, and as the hon. member who took his seat a little while ago (Mr. Armstrong, Lambton) pointed out, we imported into Canada during the same period some \$700,000 worth of apples.

Now we come to the matter of eggs, and we find that our poultrymen are suffering in precisely the same way as our fruit growers from the effects of unfair competition. I have here a letter from the Sundridge egg farm at Creston, British Columbia, in which the writer states: