

Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): And perhaps that will help the consumer?

Mr. HANSON: At least it helps the producer.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—ex 123. Lobsters, prepared or preserved, free.

Mr. BENNETT: Lobsters now enter the United States free.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, and they are bound on the free list under the agreement.

Mr. BENNETT: We are now reciprocating by giving them free entry into our market. That is the story.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes; that is the story, and the particulars are these. We imported last year from the United States 367 pounds of lobsters, valued at \$116; we exported to the United States 8,523 hundredweight, valued at \$453,000.

Mr. POULIOT: Are the closed seasons the same in Canada and the United States?

Mr. DUNNING: I am afraid I have not that information. I should add the figures respecting lobsters canned, because they are included in the item. Our production was 116,000 cases of 48 pounds, valued at \$2,380,000.

Mr. BENNETT: That is production. How much of that was exported?

Mr. DUNNING: I gave the exports to the United States. To the United Kingdom we exported 27,521 hundredweight, valued at \$1,232,000. We have a small export to quite a number of countries, the total export of canned lobsters being 52,912 hundredweight, valued at \$2,500,000.

Mr. BENNETT: Practically half of that went to the United Kingdom?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, approximately half.

Mr. POULIOT: May I ask the Minister of Fisheries whether the closed seasons are the same in Canada and the United States, I mean as regards the time at which they begin to catch lobsters? That is very important if the season is not the same in the United States as it is here in this country, the trade with the United States will not interfere at all with our own.

Mr. BROOKS: Is what is known as the spiny lobster included in this item?

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. DUNNING: This is the only lobster item.

Mr. ILSLEY: The spiny lobster has been ruled as a crayfish and is not included in the item.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—ex 123a. Shrimps, in sealed containers, 27½ per cent.

Mr. DUNNING: Imports and exports are not separately recorded.

Mr. BENNETT: It merely binds the present rate.

Mr. DUNNING: No; it is a reduction in duty. It is dutiable under the present tariff at 17½ per cent, forty per cent and forty per cent. The new rate is 27½ per cent.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—124. Oysters, shelled, in bulk, 5 cents per gallon.

Mr. DUNNING: This is a reduction. The former rates were seven cents under the British preference, nine cents under the intermediate and ten cents per gallon under the general tariff. Under this item New Zealand has by virtue of her trade agreement a fixed rate of five cents per gallon, but with no guaranteed margins of preference.

Mr. BENNETT: What is the United States duty against our shelled oysters?

Mr. DUNNING: Free.

Mr. BENNETT: The whole year?

Mr. DUNNING: They have agreed to bind the free entry presently accorded to oysters.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: What quantity of oysters do we import from the United States?

Mr. DUNNING: In bulk, shelled, 105,000 gallons, valued at \$162,000 in 1935.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Personally I should like to see an absolute embargo on the entry into Canada of the bluepoint so-called oyster, not because of competition—I am not afraid of competition—but because they are a misrepresentation and a fraud upon our famous Buctouche and Aldouane oysters. They are really not oysters at all. They do not taste like oysters. They look more like quahaugs or clams, and when people eat them they say, "If those are oysters we won't buy any more." They are therefore injurious to our Buctouche and Aldouane oysters.

Item agreed to.