

Customs Tariff

the attention of the United States authorities so that our growers may have the market they are entitled to when their fresh produce ripens and is ready for sale. It is a most important thing because there is nothing more hazardous than the growing of vegetables or fruits. You have to depend on the weather and expenses are very great in growing and cultivating these intense crops. Unless you can get the cream of the market in the first couple of weeks in which your crop is marketable, you are likely to suffer a great loss on the year's operations. I want to bring that to the attention of the minister so that when these matters are discussed the point of view of the Canadian growers will be adequately safeguarded.

Mr. Graydon: I think the hon. member for York West should receive high marks for his clear and forceful enunciation of the position of the growers in his riding and others such as my own which are similarly affected. I should like to make one or two minor additions to what he said. Perhaps the parliamentary assistant may not know this. Not only is the question of timing important, but in the past the regulations have been so loosely applied in certain instances that when dumping duties have been imposed on fruit and vegetable importations from the United States their transportation has also constituted a problem. When dumping duties are put into force here somehow or other they do not always apply to the many carloads of vegetables which are then in transit. In other words, so long as the freight cars are moving from some place in the southern United States they can still move on and come in under the wire, if I may use that term, placed there by the regulations so far as timing is concerned.

For a long time the government has needed no extra powers; rather, it has failed to use at the proper time the powers it has. One point that should be particularly impressed upon the government is that they had better stick close to the recommendations of the organized growers. They know when these dumping duties ought to be applied. In some instances I am afraid it has been a matter of compromise. The growers have made certain recommendations, those in the trade have made other recommendations from their point of view, and too often the government has come in between the two and made compromises which, as has been pointed out by the hon. member for York West, have made it impossible for the growers to market at the most important and vital period of the marketing season.

[Mr. Adamson.]

Therefore I want to add my words to those so forcefully uttered by my colleague and neighbour, the hon. member for York West, who understands the problem just as we all do in that section of Ontario. After all, our fruit and vegetable growers, our gardeners and orchard men in that part of the province are engaged in a most important national business which, because the commodities they grow are perishable, requires special treatment. In the light of the representations that have been made both in and out of the house I hope that the government will see to it that in the imposition of dumping duties growers get a better and squarer deal than they have had on many occasions in the past.

Mr. Hatfield: I should like to point out to the parliamentary assistant that hundreds of cars of United States new potatoes are coming into Canada every week. They are being sold at \$7 to \$8 a hundred at a time when there is a surplus of good old potatoes in the maritime provinces and eastern Canada generally. Does this section allow the ad valorem duty to be placed on vegetables or any other commodity at any time?

Mr. Sinclair: It is fresh fruits and vegetables and they are all listed in the schedules starting at page 9. The fruits and vegetables are listed, the tariff rates are listed, and the periods in which the extra specific duty can be levied to protect Canadian producers are listed.

Mr. Hatfield: Potatoes have a duty from the 15th June to the 31st July of 37½ cents. I should like to point out that potatoes are coming into Canada free of duty today. When we ship potatoes to the United States the duty is 75 cents a hundred. Why should we not have an ad valorem duty on potatoes at all times?

Mr. Sinclair: As the hon. member has said, during most of the year potatoes are imported free, and for the remaining period there is a tariff of 37½ cents. The United States imposes a tariff the year round. It is one of those things which can be discussed at Torquay. I suppose if they will not lower their tariff we could follow the old method of retaliation and raise our tariff.

Mr. Hatfield: You are not asking them to lower theirs. Why should we not have an ad valorem tariff against their potatoes? Why should we have to pay 75 cents on our potatoes entering the United States when their potatoes can come in here free except for a month and a half? Why should we not have the same duty as they have the year round?