

The whole of item 87, for instance, includes vegetables, fresh, in their natural state, as distinct from vegetables dried, desiccated, and so forth. I know of no case of complaint or difficulty with respect to the application of the law by the customs authorities. If any member of the committee knows of any such case, of course we can endeavour to meet it. But experience appears to indicate that this wording has been well and generally understood over a long period of years.

Mr. HEAPS: Is a dried potato interpreted by the department as being a potato in its natural state?

Mr. DUNNING: If it is not dried, desiccated or dehydrated, it is in its natural state.

Mr. STEVENS: Does not dehydrating mean drying? Therefore would not a dried potato come under the dehydrated item?

Mr. DUNNING: It is included in the same classification. In item 83 of the tariff potatoes in their natural state, and dried, desiccated or dehydrated potatoes, are all grouped together.

Mr. SPENCE: May I suggest to the minister that he eliminate the words "natural state" and just say sweet potatoes in any state?

Mr. BENNETT: I was just going to point out the difference. There is no provision for dried, desiccated or dehydrated sweet potatoes except under item 83 (d). It does appear to me that the suggestion of the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Spence) is a very sound one. Take item 83 (c), sweet potatoes in their natural state; the intermediate tariff is 10 cents per 100 pounds. That is the present rate, but we are going to make them free under the intermediate tariff. Then item 83 (d) says "sweet potatoes, n.o.p.," that is, sweet potatoes not in their natural state. That would mean dried potatoes, and the rate on them is 1½ cents per pound under the intermediate tariff, as against 10 cents per 100 pounds on ordinary sweet potatoes in their natural state. The natural state sweet potatoes carry a duty of 10 cents per 100 pounds, whereas the dried potatoes carry a duty of 1½ cents per pound.

Mr. DUNNING: That is as it was.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what I am talking about. We are now putting sweet potatoes in their natural state on the free list, but we are not putting sweet potatoes n.o.p. in item 83 (d) on the free list. It seems to me it should be abundantly clear that a sweet potato in its natural state is not a dried or

desiccated sweet potato. I had not thought the difficulty was real until I heard what the hon. member for Parkdale said.

Mr. DUNNING: I wish I could see it as a difficulty.

Mr. TAYLOR (Nanaimo): Sweet potatoes could not come into Canada unless they were kiln dried. I think that was the point of the hon. member for Parkdale, that they had to be kiln dried before they could be imported. They would rot if they were not kiln dried.

Mr. SPENCE: I did not mean anything of the kind. Many thousands of barrels and hampers of sweet potatoes come in that are not kiln dried, but the kiln dried get the preference because they are much better.

Mr. DUNNING: I think my hon. friend from Parkdale has answered the question for me better than I could answer it myself.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—84. Onions, in their natural state, including onions grown with tops, shallots, and onion sets: 30 per cent.

Provided that in no case shall any value for duty established under the authority of section 43 of the Customs Act exceed the invoice value by more than 80 per centum of the lowest advance imposed on such goods under the authority of said section during the calendar years 1933 to 1935, inclusive.

Mr. STIRLING: Can the minister tell us what duty there is against Canadian onions going into the United States?

Mr. DUNNING: The duty is 2½ cents per pound.

Mr. STIRLING: What quantity has gone into the United States from Canada in the ten months?

Mr. DUNNING: I have the figures for last year, 1935.

Mr. STIRLING: What were the Canadian shipments to the United States?

Mr. DUNNING: They were 28,000 bushels, valued at \$37,000.

Mr. STIRLING: I notice that the tariff item remains the same except that it is no longer possible to describe the duty as one not less than three-quarters of a cent per pound. That goes by the board, so that the reduction, roughly speaking, is from 75 cents to 30 cents on a dollar crate of 100 pounds.

Mr. DUNNING: I do not think my hon. friend can state that as a fact. The computation would depend on the value in any particular year.