

*Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement*

pay in those sections of western Canada is increased accordingly. The information I have, from a constituency in which there are many fruit and vegetable growers, including asparagus growers, is that the internal competition afforded by the growers of these commodities within Canada is sufficient to assure to purchasers in other parts of Canada a reasonable price. I think if my hon. friends will look up the information they will find that purchasers of these commodities are not being penalized in the way that perhaps might be taken from their remarks. I would not like to think that any considerable part of the purchasing public in Canada was being unfairly penalized by virtue of a protection given to a particular section of our growers. I am sure that is not the idea even of the growers themselves. I have a good deal of sympathy with the remarks made by the hon. member for East York (Mr. McGregor), who said that the fruit and vegetable growers were having a very difficult time even with the protection they have been given. I am hopeful that the Minister of Finance will see to it that proper protection is given so that the growers will not be penalized in any way by virtue of the change.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): In connection with the remarks of my hon. friend from Peel (Mr. Graydon), I think he is taking a fair view of the matter. As I said a moment ago when I began my remarks in connection with asparagus, I do not think our people should be exploited. These people who are endeavouring to get protection for the asparagus growers of the different parts of Canada should realize that the very fact that they have put on that protection has lost them a large market in our part of the country among people who are unable to buy these commodities, and that the tariff that exists to-day is of very little value to them as far as our section is concerned. That is why I ask that we zone this thing and take our part of the country out.

One hon. member says, "Kill your brother." You have killed almost all your brothers in the west as far as asparagus goes. It is impossible for our people to buy it. My hon. friend says he does not want to see prices raised on that account, but they are raised on that account, in our part of the dominion at any rate. The result is that to-day we cannot purchase many of these articles we purchased formerly; prices are so high now that we are not able to pay them. By putting our part of the country into a zone to which the tariff will not apply you will be helping us and you will not be hurting yourselves, because

[Mr. Graydon.]

you have not a market there to-day in any case and you never will have a market there if you keep prices so high that our people cannot buy these commodities.

Mr. MCGREGOR: I do not suppose our western and eastern brothers will ever get together on the prices of vegetables, so we shall have to leave it to the minister to do the best he can. I feel satisfied that the minister is going to look after this tariff question satisfactorily in this connection.

Mr. DUNNING: It is the Minister of National Revenue who administers this.

Mr. MCGREGOR: I just want to say that the time when these tariffs should be applied is a matter of great importance. If they are not applied on the exact day they should be, the market will be flooded with American goods, so when the first Canadian goods come on to the market they will not bring any fair return, and it is only on the first products on the market that the growers make any money. We are talking about asparagus. Probably many hon. members do not know that it takes four years to produce asparagus beds. Let us not forget that.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): Depending on where you are.

Mr. MCGREGOR: It does not make any difference where you are. My hon. friend probably knows something about growing wheat but he does not know anything about growing asparagus. I say that it takes four years to produce asparagus beds, and I hope the minister will bear that in mind.

Mr. STEWART: I should like to clear up the matter with the Minister of National Revenue. An order in council was passed or orders in council were passed authorizing the minister to fix the value for duty purposes on asparagus. I am not sure whether there was a limit in that order in council. I want to ask the minister whether the government are operating under that order in council at the present time or whether any instructions or rulings have been given in any way modifying or changing it. From what the minister said I gathered that some departmental instruction or ruling had been given, not about asparagus because the time for that has not come yet, but about other commodities. Are these orders in council fixing these values all standing as they were or have instructions been issued varying or reducing them?

Mr. ILSLEY: The orders in council are still outstanding; they have not been changed or repealed or rescinded in any way. With