

is not altogether new, and is one on which we have long known the hon. gentleman feels very strongly. If my hon. friend intended simply to give warning to the government, I am sure he has duly done his duty in that regard. My hon. friend (Mr. Blain) is aware that on Tuesday next the budget speech will be delivered, and therefore he will not be surprised if I tell him that at this moment the government cannot accept his motion. The subject, as my hon. friend says, is under the consideration of the government. It has been more than once brought to their attention, but the budget speech will be delivered on Tuesday as I have said, and then we will know what the policy of the government is. Therefore, Sir, as I said, the hon. gentleman will not be surprised if the government do not feel justified in accepting the motion he has placed in your hands.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). My hon. friend from Peel (Mr. Blain) has gone so fully into this matter that I merely wish to add a few words, because the constituency which I have the honour to represent, and several other constituencies lying in the vicinity of Montreal, are interested to a very large degree in the question which has been raised by the hon. member for Peel. I shall not go over the figures which have been so carefully grouped by my hon. friend: they appear in the returns which have been brought down from time to time, but I may say that as he gave them to the House I followed him from these returns, and I found them absolutely correct. The conclusion to which even a superficial examination of these returns inevitably leads is that the importation of garden produce from the United States is increasing gradually from year to year since 1896, having begun shortly before that time. It has increased steadily and it presses greatly upon important centres in Canada, like Toronto and Montreal, particularly from January to July in every year. From the last returns for which I moved at the beginning of this session that clearly appears. The Americans have an absolute advantage in our markets during the months that might be most profitable to our market-gardeners.

In the months of March, April, May and June, the United States market-gardeners have their harvest. They send their goods in here, and when later in the season our market-gardeners have their products ready for sale, they are prohibited by a high duty from sending them to the United States. Carefully prepared statistics show that of garden products and agricultural products generally, we export to the United States to the equivalent of 10 per cent a head of our population, while we import these products from the United States to the extent of \$2.90 cents per head of our population. I was somewhat surprised and at the same

time amused, to hear the Prime Minister state that he could not adopt this amendment because the budget had not yet been brought down; for I remember that when a similar motion was made by my hon. friend (Mr. Léonard) some years ago after the budget speech had been delivered, the right hon. gentleman's complaint then was that the motion should have been made before the budget speech. I suppose there is no use bothering about the Prime Minister's inconsistency in such a matter. The truth is, that the Prime Minister, his government, and his party have not seriously considered the urgent representations which have been placed before them for the last ten years by the market-gardeners of Canada. The market-gardeners have organized to give their representations strength; they have sent petitions to the government which were not marked confidential, but which were entitled to no less consideration on that account; they came to the government in deputation both from Ontario and Quebec, but no heed has been paid to them by the government. I remember, Mr. Speaker, (Mr. Campbell) when you yourself piloted a large deputation of market-gardeners to interview the ministers, and you seemed to be entirely favourable to the claims that were put forward by the gentlemen you accompanied. I am sure it is only the bitter irony of fate that has placed you in the chair to-night, and prevented you from supporting by your voice, and voting as you no doubt would in favour of this amendment. I respectfully point out to the Prime Minister, that the protection which market-gardeners receive on their industry amounts to two per cent only, whereas other industries are protected to a much greater extent. The market-gardeners pay a duty of from twenty-five to thirty-five per cent on everything they consume, but their own industry receives virtually no protection at all. The industry for which we now plead is not a small industry. We have gone to the trouble of compiling statistics in Jacques Cartier county, and we have found that in that county over a quarter million dollars is invested in the industry, and that there are 2,000 people whose means of livelihood it is. Mr. Legare, leading member of the market-gardeners association, in the province of Quebec, demonstrated to the government when he appeared before it here with a deputation, that if the industry were protected to a reasonable degree it would afford a means of livelihood for not 2,000 but for 6,000 people. On one occasion when a deputation appeared before the government the objection was taken that the consumers should be considered, but it was clearly proved that the consumer does not get these vegetables any cheaper than if he purchased those of native growth. It was shown that on the island of Montreal there could be cultivated at all seasons of