

## Customs Tariff

entry from Florida and California for example. Then comes the first period of the year when our hothouses begin the production of Canadian vegetables, and fruits too for that matter.

Then we give our agriculture a further protection now that we can produce it. In the old days there were provisions for ad valorem duties. At Geneva it was agreed to replace those ad valorem duties by specific rates of duty during certain periods of the year, and those periods are detailed in the schedule. We agreed at Geneva on the various periods.

Then the second time comes when our own full production comes in. Under the Geneva agreements there is authority to impose an additional specific duty during the period when the Canadian field production of these vegetables and fruits is available.

The reference to the ports of entry is a new one. Previously these added duties were applied nationally and now the minister is given the right to apply them regionally. Obviously the Fraser valley would require protection against the importation of strawberries, tomatoes, carrots, beets and so on from California at a different time than Ontario would need protection. Under the section mentioned by the hon. member for Greenwood where reference is made to ports of entry the minister is given authority to specify the various regions where the increased duty to protect Canadian produce will be imposed.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** Is this a new power?

**Mr. Sinclair:** It is a new power to specify regions.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** Is that covered by any of the sections?

**Mr. Sinclair:** The first section of the budget resolution gave the power to impose specific duties in the case of some vegetables only once. I suppose potatoes would be an example of that since there are no hothouse potatoes to my knowledge. The second clause provides for a split period. Then in the third clause authority is given to the minister to withdraw that national application from certain regions. That was a negative way of doing what we are now doing positively. Instead of applying it nationally and then withdrawing it, what we are doing in the bill is to give him the power to apply these specific duties to protect the Canadian farmer during his production period on a split period basis.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** Will the parliamentary assistant read the resolution?

**Mr. Sinclair:** It will be found on page 2175 of *Hansard*, or in the ways and means resolutions if the hon. member has those.

**Mr. Adamson:** I should like to say one or two things on this section. I hope the device of naming the ports of entry will have the desired effect. The problem which faces the vegetable and market gardeners in my county, in the county of Peel and in other adjacent counties is that the Canadian crop is a late-maturing crop which comes onto the market weeks or even months later than the United States crop. Our growers have no objection to United States produce being imported before Canadian produce is on the market, but what actually happens in many cases is that just as the Canadian crop is coming onto the market a surplus has been built up in the United States which it is difficult to market or which because of its age commands a lower price, and that surplus is to all intents and purposes dumped on the Canadian market.

As the parliamentary assistant knows, it is during the first few days or weeks of a crop that you get your maximum price. When the Canadian crop is ready for marketing we find that the warehouses and even the refrigerator cars are filled with the undigested—I am speaking marketwise—United States surplus. Until that surplus is off the market the Canadian crop, which should command a premium price because of its freshness, actually commands a depressed price. In many cases I have seen fresh Canadian produce taken off the market when no purchaser could be found and dumped or destroyed.

My first suggestion is that the date of the imposition of the Canadian tariff against United States fruits and vegetables should be put forward sufficiently in the growing season to permit the surplus being used up before the Canadian vegetables and fruits come onto the market.

At the end of the season Canadian produce is available when the United States growing season is over. In the northern United States the growing season on certain types of vegetables is comparatively short. When vegetables from the Leamington area or other areas along the north shore of lake Erie are available the United States tariff is still imposed against them. At the end of our growing season we would normally expect to find a market in the United States but we find our products are still shut out. The result is that at the end of our season we have a great surplus of vegetables which in many cases have to be destroyed.

When the parliamentary assistant goes to Torquay I hope he will bring this matter to