

the use of experimenting if our farmers are not going to be able to produce? What is the use of experimenting if they are going to have to compete with countries which can produce under more favourable conditions? It seems to me that agricultural production is the one branch of production with which the minister ought to be particularly concerned. We are told that good soya beans can be grown in Ontario and other parts of Canada.

Mr. DUNNING: And that is a reason for putting on a duty?

Mr. STEWART: This is a new industry as far as Canada is concerned, and I submit that that is when protection is needed, not when the industry is established. Protection should be given in the early stages when endeavours are being made to produce in commercial quantities. The tying of the hands of the government not to put on a duty for three years practically paralyzes any experimentation along these lines.

Mr. DUNNING: Soya beans have been free for many years and there is no suggestion on the part of anyone as to what tariff would be adequate to promote commercial production in Canada. The items with which we are dealing cover soya bean products and the encouragement of the use of soya bean products in this country will benefit one thousand times more farmers than could be benefited by any duty on soya beans. I think my thousand is a very limited estimate. Experiments are being carried on at practically every experimental farm, and I believe at most agricultural colleges, and we are encouraging the use of soya bean products in Canada. My hon. friend says that we have agreed to allow soya beans to come in free from the United States for three years, but that is a short time in plant hybridization and the accustoming of plants to our Canadian environment. There are a number of subsidiary industries based upon the soya bean which have been helped by the free importation of the bean. This bean cannot be obtained in this country in commercial quantities at all; it cannot be obtained even in experimental quantities. I think the course taken is a sound one, having regard to the experience of the past.

Mr. STEWART: I am afraid it is not likely to be.

Mr. BENNETT: I am afraid I must join issue with the Minister of Finance. He said that a thousand farmers would benefit to one—

Mr. DUNNING: A thousand to one, as compared with putting a duty on the beans.

[Mr. Stewart.]

Mr. BENNETT: Does he not realize that he is displacing grain products with soya beans imported from another country? He is displacing grain products used in the finishing of cattle.

Mr. DUNNING: What grain products?

Mr. BENNETT: Barley, for one. I listened with great care to the discussion which took place in this house a few years ago when it was suggested that we should do something to encourage the greater use of barley in Ontario, in view of the distressed economic conditions facing the barley producers because of difficulty in finding a market for their product. It was suggested that barley, as well as oats and wheat of certain grades should be used for finishing purposes. All these are used for the very purpose for which we are now going to introduce these commodities from other countries for our assistance. The duty that was imposed in times past on this oil meal and soya bean flour was 15 per cent, 25 per cent, and 25 per cent. They are now to be free. Item 663d refers to soya bean oil meal and soya bean flour, inedible, when imported by manufacturers of glues or adhesives for use exclusively in the manufacture of such glues or adhesives in their own factories, and this is all free. The item above that is with respect to animal feeds and fertilizers, and fertilizers paid a duty. Certain others were free. I put this question to the minister, first with respect to the last item. We are displacing the commodities that have heretofore been used in the production of glues, with an imported commodity called soya bean oil meal. Now the glue industry in Canada has been a substantial one and it has done a considerable export business with—I am speaking again from memory—Great Britain, notably. We are now to use an article imported from some other country for that purpose instead of using our own animal product for the production of glue. In the second place, for finishing purposes, we are told that this is a thousand to one shot in favour of the farmer because we have displaced his barley, wheat, oats and, in some cases, corn and substituted therefor an imported commodity called soya bean oil.

Mr. DUNNING: My right hon. friend has not been so unfair this afternoon.

Mr. BENNETT: That is not unfair; it is absolutely the fact. If soya bean meal is used for finishing purposes on the farm, where heretofore it has not been used—

Mr. DUNNING: That is the point.