

vested here in proper equipment for the carrying on of the market gardening industry and the early production of vegetables (amounting to many millions of dollars), but many thousand families rely on the maintenance and development of this industry for their subsistence.

6. The industry is susceptible of very great extension and of furnishing a profitable and happy livelihood to a large class of our agricultural population.

7. It is to be borne in mind that the market gardeners of Canada pay considerable duties on every article that they use in their industry, on garden tools, on harness, carts, wagons, all agricultural implements, on their clothes, the materials for their conservatories and in fact all that they use for the prosecution of their industry; they do not, however, object to such conditions if a protective policy is deemed necessary in the country's interests. The market gardeners merely ask for a reasonable protection of their own interests.

8. The association in no way seeks to obtain the exclusion of American garden produce, but the enactment of such changes in the Canadian tariff, on the lines adopted by the United States in their own country, as will secure fair and stable conditions in our own vegetable markets and prevent our home market being made the dumping ground for the surplus produce of the United States.

9. A careful examination would show that our market gardeners, if enouraged, would be in a position to supply most of the requirements of our markets during the whole year with new and fresh vegetables, such as lettuce, watercress, radishes, celery, cauliflower, cucumbers, spinach, parsley, etc., at fair prices.

10. The Canadian duty on vegetables imported into Canada is as follows:

Beans, 15 cents per bushel.

Peas, 10 cents per bushel.

Potatoes, 15 cents per bushel.

Vegetables not otherwise provided for, 25 per cent.

Fresh tomatoes, 20 cents per bushel and 10 per cent. ad valorem.

11. The United States duty on vegetables imported from Canada is as follows:

Beans, 45 cents per bushel of 60 lbs.

Cabbages, 3 cents each.

Onions, 40 cents per bushel.

Green Peas, 40 cents per bushel.

Potatoes, 25 cents per bushel of 60 lbs.

Vegetables in their natural state not otherwise provided for, 25 per cent. ad valorem.

(To be concluded in January issue.)

Coopers to Combine

The manufacturers of barrels, boxes and baskets throughout Ontario purpose forming a combine. They say they do not do so with the hope of advancing prices as is the case with most combines. Two years ago, when the coopers took advantage of a shortage in stocks and held out for excessive prices, the result was that the following year found cement men, millers and others using bags and sacks, while

the fruit growers adopted a standard box and agitated for the use of boxes instead of barrels for shipping fruit.

The cooperage manufacturers realize that if they supply barrels at reasonable prices they can restore their market, and it is with the purpose of reducing the price to the producer that the combine is being formed.

A meeting for this purpose was held recently in Toronto. About 20 manufacturers have signified their intention of forming a joint stock company. It is proposed to have a central office for buying and selling stock and output. In this way travellers would be dispensed with and the expenses materially decreased. Inspectors would be employed to see that high grade stock was supplied. An effort is being made to get others to join the combination. As soon as 80 per cent. of the output is under control the company will be incorporated.

Would Reduce the Tariff

The retail fruit and vegetable merchants of Toronto and London appeared before the Tariff Commission and asked for considerable reductions in the duty on certain products coming into Canada.

At Toronto the case was presented by Mr. F. C. Higgins, who pointed out that climatic conditions prevented Canadians from producing certain fruits and vegetables. In those products that are grown here he said that there is a natural protection in the perishability of the goods, and in the expense entailed in putting them on the Canadian market.

It was claimed that the existing duty of 25 per cent. on cranberries is prohibitive, and as the production in Canada is small the tariff should be reduced to \$1.00 a barrel. At present it amounts to about \$3.00. The present duty of two cents a pound on grapes was thought to be double what it should be. On strawberries the same duty was said to be excessive. In peaches it was asked that the duty of one per cent. per pound be reduced to half a cent from December 1 to August 15, and left as it is the remainder of the year.

Mr. Frank Simpson asked for a reduction on potatoes from 15 to 10 cents a bushel. It was thought the duty of 25 per cent. on tomatoes was ample. The duty on onions should be reduced from 15 to 10 cents a bushel. On cucumbers, asparagus, celery and cauliflower it was asked that the present duty be retained.

Mr. G. G. Steele presented the case at London, and said that the importations did not interfere with the fruit men. The following changes were asked for: Tomatoes, 25 cents a bushel instead of 20 cents and 10 per cent.; potatoes, reduction from 15 to 10 cents a bushel; melons, reduction from 25 to 12½ per cent.; onions, reduction from 25 per cent. to 10 cents a bushel; cranberries, restoration of old duty of 30 cents a bushel; grapes, reduction from two cents to one cent a pound, or, failing that reduction, to one cent on grapes from Spain and California; peaches reduction from one cent to half a cent a pound from December 1 to August 15.