

*Supply—Agriculture*

exports on whole pack tomatoes over the past three years, through export subsidies and lack of tariffs in Canada.

Questioned from the floor after his speech by Harry Evans, on what happens to the average 20 per cent reduced price on imported tomatoes, Mr. Hepburn did not say other than that a can of tomatoes from any of the foreign countries mentioned costs as much on a store shelf as a can of domestic tomatoes.

"Tomatoes" said Mr. Hepburn, "is the most valuable single cash crop in Ontario."

Similarly, fruit processing in the Niagara peninsula is in trouble. Australia alone has taken 30 to 40 per cent of the domestic market in tender fruits and forced a comparable cut-back of one-third of the domestic industry's original capacity of seven years ago.

While Australia has a vast export assistance program, it also has a 22 per cent tariff for incoming food goods, yet their products are allowed into Canada duty free, he charged.

Similarly with United States food products... there are tariffs for Canadian products entering the U.S., but no tariffs for U.S. products entering Canada—

Italy already has tariffs of 18 per cent on all whole pack tomatoes exported, 15 per cent on tomato paste and 16 per cent on tomato juice. "Within the past 48 hours France has announced it will match any tariff set by Italy," he told the meeting.

Ontario tomato canners, he said, are forced by law to pay the highest prices for their raw product of any country. Wage costs are also the highest.

"We can now compete with the United States tomato products from California and our western Canada markets have opened up again, but we cannot compete with unfair competition from low wages and costs of foreign countries."

I continue quoting from the article:

These two joined with the farmers union executive to jointly pass and sign a resolution to support any future brief to the federal government by the O.F.P.A.

The wording of the resolution was as follows:

"Whereas the president of the Ontario Food Processors Association, the president of the Prince Edward County Canning Crop Growers Association, the president of the Prince Edward Federation of Agriculture and the president, executive and members of the Prince Edward Farmers Union, having met together and discussed the problems of the O.F.P.A. and primary producers with regard to unfair competition from offshore countries exporting under direct and indirect subsidization, we urgently request immediate action to contravene the above mentioned subsidization."

This is a resolution from Prince Edward county, one of Canada's important canning-crop counties, and I ask the government to take heed.

In so far as the Kennedy round of trade tariffs are concerned, I must say that our representatives who attended in Geneva, Switzerland, must have been looking at the mountains and the scenery when this aspect

of tariff problems was being discussed. The situation as it now exists will put our canners and growers out of business, so it must be fought tooth and nail. I respectfully ask the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade and Commerce as well, to help us in this regard. The tomato growers of Canada do not ask, do not demand, a business environment amounting to hothouse protection from the cold blasts of competition. I appeal to the government and its tariff officials only for fair treatment. These people are appalled at the neglect and ineptitude displayed in this latest international tariff deal which abandons them to certain annihilation unless the government faces up to its immediate responsibilities. Those responsibilities are to see that our agriculture, indeed our whole national economy, is such that Canadians can truly refer to this country as a fair land of hope for all who toil.

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Chairman, I think I should try to answer a few of the many queries that have come up during the course of this debate. It is going to be rather difficult to answer them all, as there have been many speeches. Many of the speeches have been constructive and many, of course, have been of a purely political nature. To those who made constructive speeches, I may say that I am sure they had the best interests of the agricultural community at heart and for their contributions I am certainly grateful. With respect to the speeches having a political connotation, I am rather taken aback by the many speakers from the official opposition who have complained about my address last evening wherein I tried to straighten out the statistical background on which current agriculture policy should be based. I pointed out that there have been improvements in both gross and net agricultural income. Hon. members opposite took this as a political speech, I understand. I point out that the Leader of the Opposition, whom I am pleased to see back with us again, started his speech on the premise that the Conservatives got 60 per cent of the farm vote in the last election and were going to get even more in the next one.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Greene:** Those were the non-political words with which the Leader of the Opposition started his address. However, when I replied by citing some statistics to indicate the picture of agriculture today, apparently