

Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement

Mr. ILSLEY: I should like to endorse what my colleague the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) has said. I should like also to give the committee a few figures, which perhaps may be of interest, on this matter of protection of fruits and vegetables.

Mr. BENNETT: Stick to asparagus.

Mr. SPENCE: You are getting away from asparagus. You would not let me get away from it, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ILSLEY: I will give the figures with regard to asparagus only, if the committee thinks fit. On an assumed invoice value of six cents for asparagus, the ad valorem equivalent of the duty imposed prior to December 31, 1935, was 149 per cent, that is when we take the general tariff rate plus the dumping duties. Under this arrangement with the United States we have agreed, as I said before, that the advance on the invoice value shall not be greater than eighty per cent of the advance which previously existed, the lowest advance in the last three years. Taking into account the new tariff rate of 15 per cent ad valorem and the dumping duty, if imposed up to that maximum, the protection at the present time is still ninety-nine per cent ad valorem.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): We are going to be ruined!

Mr. ILSLEY: And that is not an isolated instance. I may say that I have no sympathy with the contention that the rates as provided for in the United States trade agreement are insufficient. I have a list of them before me, and certainly they would supply ammunition to those of my friends from the west who contend that the rates are too high, rather than to those of my friends opposite who contend that the vegetable growers and the fruit growers have been sacrificed by this agreement. For instance, if we apply in the future eighty per cent of the advance applied in the past, and the new rates of duty provided for in the agreement, the following are the ad valorem equivalents on fair invoice values which will apply:

	Per cent
Apples..	76
Apricots..	61
Cantaloupes..	203
Cherries..	80
Cranberries..	20
Grapes..	76
Peaches..	95
Pears..	61
Plums and prunes..	107
Raspberries..	61
Strawberries..	45
Asparagus..	99

[Mr. Dunning.]

Beans..	91
Beets..	148
Cabbage..	195
Carrots..	152
Cauliflower..	169
Celery..	61
Cucumbers..	145
Lettuce..	76
Mushrooms..	33
Onions, n.o.p..	108
Green onions..	149
Peas..	61
Peppers..	84
Rhubarb..	134
Spinach..	61

You will understand, Mr. Chairman, that these are the maximum rates which the government is permitted by this agreement to impose. The point I am trying to make is that when my hon. friends contend that the fruit and vegetable growers have been sacrificed by the agreement, that certainly is not borne out by these rates. If the committee is interested, I can give the rates that have—

Mr. SPENCE: What has that to do with the item we are now discussing?

Mr. ILSLEY: I can give the ad valorem equivalents of the rates that have heretofore existed for the same list, and I ask the committee to note the size of these:

	Per cent
Apples..	106
Apricots..	80
Cantaloupes..	283
Cherries..	105
Cranberries..	25
Grapes..	100
Peaches..	150
Pears..	80
Plums and prunes..	160
Raspberries..	100
Strawberries..	83
Asparagus..	149
Beans..	138
Beets..	208
Cabbage..	280
Carrots..	213
Cauliflower..	250
Celery..	150
Cucumbers..	204
Lettuce..	166
Mushrooms..	60
Onions, n.o.p..	150
Green onions..	171
Peas..	95
Peppers..	128
Rhubarb..	186
Spinach..	95
Average..	135

Mr. BRADETTE: It should be enough.

Mr. ILSLEY: These do not all bear on the item before the committee, but they are illuminating, I think, when we are considering the question whether by this agreement