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## An Appraiser of Vegetables May Be Appointed

During April a deputation of leading vegetable growers waited upon Hon. Wm. Paterson, Minister of Customs at Ottawa, and on behalf of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association requested that the Dominion Government should appoint an official whose duty it would be to set a fair value on the vegetables imported into Canada, so that they could not pass the customs at a ridiculously low valuation. While there is a duty on vegetables imported into Canada, it has been little protection to the vegetable growers, because of the fact that the people in the United States, who ship vegetables into Canada, value them at such a low figure that the duty on such valuation is so low it does not serve as any protection to the Canadian vegetable growers. The Government listened attentively to the representations of the committee, and gave reason to believe that the requests made would be granted.

The deputation was composed of Messrs. R. J. Bushell, of Kingston, the president of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association; Thos. Delworth, of the Toronto Branch, and some nine members of the Ottawa branch, for whom Mr. Williams and Mr. Farquarson acted as spokesmen. The deputation was introduced by Mr. Archie Campbell, M.P., of Centre York, who was assisted by Mr. Avery, M.P. for Frontenac, and Mr. M. Devlin, M.P. for Wright County. In introducing the deputation, Mr. Campbell pointed out that the Dominion Government was being defrauded in the matter of customs receipts by the vegetables being brought into Canada at a price below their true value. He pointed out that the vegetable growers are men who invest a large amount of money in their business, and that having to meet the competition of vegetables from the United States is a serious hardship to them.

Mr. Bushell referred to the importance of the vegetable industry, showing that in Ontario alone it represented an investment of \$10,000,000. In the remarks of Mr. Delworth, attention was drawn to the fact that many of the vegetables imported into Canada have a damaged appearance, and are passed at a very low value, but after the boxes are opened and carefully inspected, it is found that the percentage of damaged vegetables is much smaller than first appearances indicated. The Dominion Government excludes Chinese labor because it believes that Canadians should not have to compete with the Chinese. By allowing United States vegetables to be imported into Canada at prices below their true value, the Government is not protecting Canadian vegetable growers against the products of the Chinese growers in California who send a large quantity of celery into Canada. Mr. Delworth further pointed out that much of the vegetables imported into Canada are the tail end of the crops of United States growers. The United States growers sell 80% of their crops in their own markets, and rather than flood their own markets with the remnants of their crops, they ship such vegetables to Canadian markets, and make Canadian markets a dumping ground for such products.

Mr. Williams assured the Government that Canadian growers do not desire to be protected except during a few months in the year when their own vegetables are ready to be marketed. At present the Canadian growers when they offer their fresh vegetables have to meet the competition and the low prices caused by the importation of large quantities of cheap United States vegetables.

Hon. Mr. Paterson stated that he believed that the dumping clause can be utilized to prevent vegetables being brought into Canada as they have been in the past. He promised to take steps to see that vegetables when crossing the border have a fair valuation placed on them.

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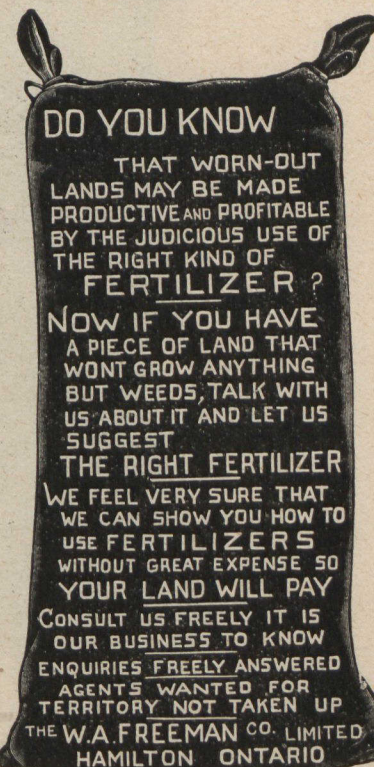
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