

*Customs Tariff*

**Mr. Adamson:** I should like to correct something the parliamentary assistant said. I do not believe a congressman in the United States could make the same sort of argument as I have made, because there is a difference in climatic conditions. If perishable foodstuffs go to waste in the United States it is not because of a glut of imports from Canada, it is due to a lack of markets; it is entirely an internal condition. On the other hand if, as happens year after year, at the beginning of the marketing season, our goods go to waste it is because of the glut of American goods that has come in and filled up the pipe line of storage and freight cars.

As a matter of fact, several growers have complained to me that a hundred or so freight cars are waiting on the Toronto market. With this surplus United States produce overhanging the market just as the Canadian grower is trying to market fresh vegetables, a difficult problem presents itself. It is not one of protecting the consumers, because the consumer is protected. It is the problem of preventing this surplus United States produce from overhanging our market just at a time when our crop is coming on the market to be sold.

**Mr. Sinclair:** I want to apologize to the hon. gentleman. I inferred that, were he going to speak on the same problem, the American congressman who had potato growers as his constituents could speak on their behalf just as the hon. member spoke on behalf of the growers in his district. The congressman could point to the fact that the United States would be giving a tariff concession on potatoes when they had these millions of bushels that were given away in the United States.

**Mr. Blackmore:** I believe the parliamentary assistant has struck a note which should be expanded just a little. It is well for us to bear in mind that the United States is able to produce a large percentage of her requirements. The result is that hardly any export from Canada seeking admission to the United States will fail to find plenty of people in the United States with the same commodity to sell. Unless Canada watches her moves with care, then we are going to get the worst of the deal with the United States on every commodity every year.

I should like to support the member for York West in the most unequivocal terms. I should like to see the principle applied most rigidly all across Canada. At the same time, I should like to support the idea advanced by the member for Rosetown-Biggan. I do not see any reason why the consumer in Canada should be penalized for the privilege of using Canadian goods. In a general way, I think we in Canada can produce goods just about

[Mr. Coldwell.]

as cheaply as the United States, in so far as garden products are concerned. There will be exceptions, of course, but I do not think the Canadian consumer should be penalized. I know I would like to see our government officials have that in mind.

While I am on my feet, I think I should say a word about the reduction of imperial preferences which have been going on under steady pressure from the United States for about a quarter of a century. I believe the Canadian people are weak-kneed and ill-advised and lacking in vision when they yield to this pressure. By and large we are never going to compete successfully with the United States in the bargaining concerning our products, because of the tremendous productive potential of the United States, plus their vast home market which would be such an advantage in helping her to produce and sell.

On the other hand we are going to be able to co-operate with the other members of the British commonwealth in establishing a commonwealth economy which will have some chance of being able to look the United States in the face on equal terms if we help to develop that commonwealth economy by wisely devised and wisely applied imperial preferences. I wish to raise my voice definitely against any further reduction of imperial preferences. Just as soon as we can manage it I would say we ought to begin to increase those imperial preferences in order to encourage the development of a great empire or commonwealth economy which will have some chance of successfully competing in a world in which such giants as the United States and Russia are playing around.

**Mr. Clark:** I am sorry I was not in the chamber earlier, but I was with a group of other farmers. I should like to mention a few things that I believe have been mentioned this afternoon. One is the method of protecting the vegetable growers. The method that is at present used is not perhaps 100 per cent efficient. The method that was used in wartime and which was recommended, I believe, by the tariff board many years ago, was a permit system which allowed the United States products in when we were short, but it embargoed them when we had a quantity sufficient to supply the market. I think every fruit and vegetable grower in Canada would like to see that particular system implemented in a deal with the United States. The fact of turning to it under the rigours of war I think should be to the government proof that it is the most efficient way of handling that particular problem.

In the time that I have been in the chamber this afternoon, the hon. member for