

*Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement*

Customs tariff—92. Fruits, fresh, in their natural state:

(b) Cherries, 15 per cent.

Mr. SPENCE: One thing I object to taking any more of is cherries. In fact I am opposed to every cut that has been made in the whole list of fruits and vegetables. Away back in the twenties when my hon. friends were in power before, they put through a French treaty which hit cherries in this country badly. At one time we used to sell hundreds of thousands of baskets on the Toronto and Montreal markets to the canning and extract people. Since the French treaty became effective they were able to buy, from France and Italy, cherries in barrels, cured ready for use, which killed the cherry market in Canada, and scores, yes thousands of trees were pulled out between Toronto and Niagara Falls; they had to throw them away, and from then on the cherry market has never recovered. Now you are hitting them another punch and driving them into a hole. It is only five per cent, but why insist on all these changes so that no one in the business world knows what he is doing.

Mr. DUNNING: It may comfort my hon. friend to know—

Mr. SPENCE: There is always some excuse for everything, I never saw such a place.

Mr. DUNNING: I want to help my hon. friend if I can. There is a concession in the United States tariff with respect to cherries from two cents to one cent a pound. The Fordney-McCumber tariff was two cents.

Mr. SPENCE: We do not get much chance to ship many to the United States.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): I think the minister should be complimented upon this; it is the first item in the whole list on which we have had a fifty per cent reduction.

Mr. DUNNING: You are forgetting peas.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): No; they stayed at two cents.

Mr. DUNNING: No; fresh peas were reduced from two cents to one cent.

Mr. BENNETT: For a limited period of time.

Mr. STIRLING: What are the exports of cherries?

Mr. DUNNING: They are not separately recorded.

Mr. BENNETT: What are the imports?

[Mr. Dunning.]

Mr. DUNNING: Total cherries, n.o.p., is given here: 50,000 pounds exports from Canada, practically all to the United States.

Mr. STIRLING: Does this mean that the government expects that we shall greatly increase our shipments of cherries?

Mr. DUNNING: With the variety of opinion among fruit growers I prefer not to express an opinion.

Mr. SPENCE: What is the amount of cherries, cured, coming from Italy and France at the present time.

Mr. DUNNING: I will get it in a moment, though of course cured cherries is a different item.

Mr. SPENCE: The extract people are buying them now instead of buying our own. The importation may have dropped off recently, but it was very heavy at one time.

Mr. DUNNING: Cherries in brine from Italy last year: 182,000 gallons, valued at \$133,000.

Mr. HEAPS: They are on the sanction list now, are they not?

Mr. DUNNING: They are not coming now.

Mr. SPENCE: Could the minister give the amount from France?

Mr. DUNNING: If the committee will wait a minute, or if my hon. friend is the only member interested perhaps he could get the information from me privately later. The hon. member need not worry about France; we imported 165 gallons last year.

Sub-item (b) agreed to.

Customs tariff—92. Fruits, fresh, in their natural state:

(c) Cranberries, 15 per cent.

Provided that the duty under any tariff less favourable than the British preferential tariff shall at no time be less than two cents per pound, the weight of the packages to be included in the weight for duty.

Mr. SPENCE: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. BENNETT: What is our position in respect to this?

Mr. DUNNING: One and a quarter cents per pound—when the hon. member for Parkdale and the leader of the opposition settle between themselves who is asking the questions.

Mr. BENNETT: Why should the minister make that observation? I was not asking anything. The hon. member for Parkdale rose and the chairman noticed him and said, "The