

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): Well then, is this more or less protection for the producer rather than concern for the consumer?

Mr. DUNNING: We are trying to keep both in mind.

Mr. WILTON: If I am in order I should like to ask whether the present tariff arrangements provide for a duty on meal of the soya bean.

Mr. DUNNING: I can give my hon. friend the information, although the item has been passed.

Mr. WILTON: I know it has been passed.

Mr. DUNNING: The item dealt with under the treaty refers only to the soya bean.

Mr. WILTON: It does not refer to the meal?

Mr. DUNNING: No.

Mr. WILTON: I have just had a long distance telephone call from a company in Hamilton which is arranging to erect an establishment in the town of Dundas for the handling of soya beans. They are vitally interested in this matter, and request that a tariff of some kind be put against the meal at least, as a protection to the Canadian grower of soya beans.

Mr. DUNNING: I have had several wires this morning commending the government for allowing the bean in free. It depends entirely upon the business in which the sender of a wire is engaged as to whether he advocates free meal or a duty on meal. I have had a number of such communications today, so that I can confirm what my hon. friend says as far as representations are concerned. It is the old question as to where we shall start. Every industry is anxious to get free raw material and as high a tariff as possible on its own finished product. Unfortunately in many instances the finished product of one industry becomes the raw material of the next. That is one of the problems of tariff making.

Item agreed to.

Customs tariff—87. Vegetables, fresh, in their natural state:

(a) Asparagus, 15 per cent.

Mr. DUNNING: I think it would facilitate the discussion a very great deal, Mr. Chairman, if we took each of these vegetable items and passed it separately. If no one objects I think that will be very much better.

Mr. STIRLING: Would the minister be good enough to tell us the duty against our

asparagus going into the United States, and what quantity we have exported?

Mr. DUNNING: Under the United States tariff this is in their n.o.p. item; it is not specifically provided for, and therefore would carry a tariff of fifty per cent ad valorem going into the United States.

Mr. STIRLING: Against our 15 per cent?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, under the treaty, subject of course to a valuation.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): Is there a quota on that also?

Mr. DUNNING: No.

Mr. STIRLING: I think we imported \$61,000 worth in 1935, did we not?

Mr. DUNNING: We imported 1,128,000 pounds valued at \$61,000, all from the United States.

Mr. STIRLING: And did we succeed in shipping any to that country?

Mr. DUNNING: It is not separately classified going into the United States, so I cannot give that information.

Mr. STEWART: As I understand it the power is still retained on the part of the government to fix a value for duty purposes?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes. The existing situation in that regard with respect to asparagus is that the advance on invoice value existing at the time the treaty came into force was 5½ cents. The maximum therefore provided by the treaty is 4½ cents, being not more than 80 per cent of the former advance.

Mr. STEWART: Does not that perpetuate a principle in this tariff which was very roundly condemned by hon. gentlemen opposite, the power to fix values for duty purposes? Are not the government retaining that element of uncertainty in our tariff which they were pledged to remove and entirely get away from?

Mr. BENNETT: I want to point out to the Minister of National Revenue, who administers this section of the act, as well as to the Minister of Finance, that these impositions now of three-fifths of a cent, 4 cents and 4½ cents must be wholly illegal and improper. If the ministers will do me the honour of directing their attention to the language of the proviso they will find this:

Provided that when imported under the general tariff rate, from April 15 to May 31, inclusive, the duty shall be not less than 3 cents per pound.

All these items confer power upon the minister to fix the value under section 43,