

value of \$30,530, or practically a dollar per bushel on the average.

Mr. STEVENS: Nearly all new potatoes?

Mr. LOGGIE: Would they be new potatoes in October, November, December, January and February?

Mr. STEVENS: Take the figures for the three months on new potatoes.

Mr. LOGGIE: That is exactly what I have tried to present to the House—that we import practically nothing but new potatoes, and import them at a very high price because we have not got them in Canada. If we had them in Canada they would be cheaper.

Mr. STEVENS: People are prepared to pay for them out of season.

Mr. LOGGIE: The hon. gentleman may be prepared to pay more for them; but other people may not have so much spare cash as he to pay that extra price, especially when it has no result except to enrich the treasury of Canada. No other person gets any benefit. I say this means an increased cost of living on the importations of potatoes into Canada of \$125,000, and without any benefit accruing to the farmers of Canada.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I wish to hurry on. We have power now, by passing the resolution I shall place in your hands in a few moments, to give effect to this desirable situation, that as soon as we put the potatoes on the free list coming into Canada, our potatoes going into the United States, will, ipso facto, enter the United States market free of duty.

Mr. EDWARDS: Except for the embargo.

Mr. LOGGIE: Never mind that, I will come to that later on. I allege that Canadians paid in fourteen months duty on imports of potatoes to the amount of \$83,167.04, and this amount must be added to the invoice cost of potatoes of eighty-five and one-half cents per bushel, making them cost, without freight, but simply cost and duty, over \$3 per barrel. In addition to all this borne by the Canadian consumer, I allege, and can establish beyond question, that the New Brunswick growers of potatoes on their shipments in three months paid into the United States treasury \$27,008 for duty. Now, had there been no duty, that \$27,008 would have been jingling in the pockets of the farmers of New Brunswick. Now, what earthly reason can there be for this tax? It is much worse than an

[Mr. Loggie.]

export duty, because if we put an export duty on our potatoes, at least our own Canadian treasury would reap the benefit. But by leaving our potatoes on the dutiable list for the United States we, to all intents and purposes, put on an export duty for the benefit of the United States treasury.

Mr. EDWARDS: What reason did Mr. Fielding give for keeping on the duty?

Mr. LOGGIE: I am surprised at the hon. gentleman asking such a question. He knows as well as I do that when Mr. Fielding, or the Liberal party, went to the country in 1911, it was on the proposition that we should have an interchange of natural products, practically not interfering with manufactured products.

Mr. DAVIDSON: Why did they wait so long before bringing that in?

Mr. LOGGIE: I will tell the hon. gentleman. I would like to have it out with him. Let me tell him what, perhaps, he does not know, that from 1879 to 1896, the waiting policy was the policy of the Conservative party. Every time they went to the people they went on a platform of protective tariff and reciprocity in the natural products of the United States. And they waited, and waited, and waited.

Mr. EDWARDS: And what did you do in 1896?

Mr. LOGGIE: In 1896 the Liberal party revised the tariff, reduced the duties to some extent and then adopted the same policy of waiting to see if the United States would allow our natural products in, in exchange for a similar concession on our part. The policy of interchange in natural products was the policy of both parties until 1911. Hon. gentlemen are quite familiar with the reason why it was not made effective—it was simply that the United States were not ready for it. And they know why the interest was manifested in having natural products put on the free list as between these countries; it was because the United States put a clause in their tariff imposing a penalty duty upon commodities entering their country from a country that did not receive the same commodity from the United States at as low a rate as that under which it was admitted from any other country. And then it resulted in friendly relations. The people of Canada made a grave mistake in 1911, but let us act upon the conditions which exist at the present time.