

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): If the remarks of the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Mac-Nicol) with regard to oranges entering this country from California were correct, I should think that when the trade agreement was made the whole year would have been covered, in all probability, by the free entry provision, instead of the four months specified in the agreement. As I understand the matter, the restriction to four months is for the purpose of keeping out competition from the United States with empire countries. The large crop of oranges in the United States is of the navel orange. The small crop of oranges in the United States is of the Valencia orange. These months of January, February, March and April are the months of the production of navel oranges in Florida and other states, including, to some extent, California. They would not compete, probably, with empire oranges; therefore those oranges come in at that time. But the Valencia orange, which is the same orange that is grown in Australia, in British Honduras and in Jamaica, comes in during the other months of the year, so I think it will be found that the agreement is made in this way in order to avoid competition as between United States and empire oranges. Personally I can see no reason why the people of Canada should be made to pay more for oranges, in any case. When my hon. friend speaks of Washington, of course no oranges come from that part of the country. I do know that no one produces oranges in Canada, and I see no reason why we should have any tariff against them at any time.

Mr. HEAPS: One of the countries from which we expected to receive very large shipments of oranges was Australia, but according to the statement of the minister it would appear that Australia has not been in a position to ship any large quantity of oranges to Canada; I think he said that only 14,000 cubic feet of oranges came from that country. Therefore I take it that Australia is not in a position to supply us with any large share of the vast quantity of oranges we consume in this country. During the same year the United States supplied us with over 3,000,000 cubic feet of oranges, while the quantity we received from empire countries was rather small and limited. Personally I am glad to see this item in the agreement; it gives the United States quite a large concession, and I hope we receive equal concessions from them in connection with other items. I should like the minister to tell the committee if he has

any information as to how many oranges were imported from the United States during the four similar months of last year. The minister gave us the annual shipments.

Mr. DUNNING: During the four months which are of interest because of the nature of this item, from January to April, 1935, inclusive, imports from the United States totalled 1,410,000 cubic feet.

Mr. HEAPS: As against a total of what?

Mr. DUNNING: As against a total of 3,744,000 cubic feet for the fiscal year.

Mr. BENNETT: Is there any conflict between this agreement and the West India agreement? The question has been asked as to why we should buy empire oranges. It will be remembered that under an agreement negotiated with the West Indies by a former Liberal administration it was provided that there should be a preference of one cent under the general tariff on grapefruit, and I think there was also a preference with respect to oranges though I have been unable to find it.

Mr. DUNNING: No.

Mr. BENNETT: None at all?

Mr. DUNNING: No.

Mr. BENNETT: Then the effect of this arrangement would be to subject Jamaica oranges to competition they previously did not have to meet.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes. Of course there is a greatly diminished supply from the West Indies principally because of the disastrous effects of hurricanes and also because of the premium nature of the United Kingdom market for Jamaica oranges, which resulted in a very large diversion of the Jamaica crop to that country. This is perhaps of doubtful importance, but I should mention it: The introduction into the Canadian market of Palestine oranges under free entry granted by the legislation of 1933 might have had an effect, because importations from Palestine have steadily increased since that time, amounting to 82,000 cubic feet in 1935.

Mr. HEAPS: There is quite a difference between the oranges we get from the different parts of the empire. Jamaica oranges do not compete with Palestine oranges any more than they do with California oranges. All these oranges are of different grades, and people who like a good orange of the navel type probably would not care for the other types of oranges sometimes put on the market coming from other parts of the world.