

knew that we were right. My, the controls that the Americans have. When a Canadian tries to export products to Americans he finds that the controls are much stricter than the Minister of Agriculture is suggesting now. We want at least equal to that or even better than the Americans have to protect their producers.

Most people try to get across that Americans are not protective of their society. They are not trade restrictionists, so people say. Mr. Speaker, they are the greatest trade restrictionists that I know of any place in the world. I base this on my nearly seven years as Minister of Agriculture studying and looking at what other countries were doing to protect their producers. They have some of the most restrictive trade practices anywhere. Some have been wiped out under these negotiations. There are hidden tariff practices. If there is evidence of their using them, you can take them to GATT to find out why they are using them, and appeal for compensation in those cases.

If one checks the history of negotiations, one will find there have never been any more detailed negotiations. This applies not to just the horticultural sector but to the meat sector also, probably the most successful of all negotiations that took place at Geneva. They were probably most beneficial for that industry, the most important industry of all, the over-all agricultural industry of Canada.

As I said, most of it was agreed by consultation with the provincial ministers and in some instances with the provincial premiers. If they wanted to be involved they could be. One or two of them actually took part in the negotiations. They went there themselves to make suggestions and to consult with the people who were concerned.

I could not agree more with what was stated earlier. Ministers have had since June 4 to draft a new bill or have a new policy to inform people. But what we should have is an old schedule alongside this one to make a fair comparison and to see what changes have been made, how they have been made, whom they will benefit and whom they will harm, etc. There will be some who will say that they have been harmed by this.

If you read this bill as an ordinary layman it says: an Act to amend the Customs Tariff and to make certain amendments to the New Zealand Trade Agreement Act, 1932, the Australian Trade Agreement Act, 1960. I believe the Australians and New Zealanders are given one more year of phasing in the tariff changes on pears, and it makes it a little better for British Columbians who export some cherries to Australia and New Zealand. One would think that was the main part of the act. But when one looks at the act and sees the tremendous amount of changes that have been made not only for horticultural crops but for the many other entries produced in Canada—some we hope will be produced more abundantly than ever before because of this legislation—it will be a challenge to a lot of producers in Canada. It will be a challenge to a lot of people thinking about processing here.

Our biggest customer is the United States. We are their biggest customer in the world for these particular products. Many people are not aware of this fact or are not aware of the

Customs Tariff

amount of trade that takes place between our two nations. That does not mean that we cannot discuss or disagree, or go to GATT if necessary to have those kinds of discussions. It does not mean we cannot put things on the table and allow a free and independent body to make that decision for us if we cannot come to a harmonious agreement between ourselves. We will see as we go over the schedule the many changes that are made. I hope that any members who do not have the answers before them will be provided with them when the time comes for this bill to follow that stage.

I have had some discussions, not in as much detail as I would have liked since the ways and means motion has been tabled. I think we should have had the opportunity to discuss in full detail some of these things with the Canadian Horticultural Society, the Canadian Food Processors Association and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. How many members have done this? I have not had time to go over each item to see if there are other changes. Maybe I should not even be concerned about that because the ones that are being changed from the original negotiations I believe are mentioned at the front of the bill.

Some questions will be asked by members who were not involved in the negotiations. These people will want to know if it will protect the potato growers. We think the tariff on potatoes is probably something farmers have wanted for years and years. Equalization, fair trade, and fair opportunities are what these tariff negotiations have brought for Canada and the United States. The Americans removed their quota. I do not have the figures in front of me. I believe their quota was around 400,000 cwt., and that has now been removed. The exorbitant rate that was put on after reaching a certain amount was removed from the United States tariff program. There have been concessions in the potato industry in Canada. For a long time this industry has wanted to be on an equal footing.

● (2040)

The increase in production will not take place overnight with these commodities, even if we have the know-how. I know that in Your Honour's constituency there is a tremendous potential for certain horticultural crops. I was recently there. I saw some of these commodities left in the field.

The other night there was a program over CBC which showed grain rotting in Stavelly, Alberta. The next morning I called the Alberta Pool to see how much had been lost. I was told that the amount lost was unreportable. The other night the head of the Canadian Grains Commission appeared before our committee. I asked how much grain is lost this way in western Canada. He informed me the amount was so small it could not be measured. Because of that report, editorials were written about what a crying shame it is that our grain is rotting while people are starving in other parts of the world.

The other day while driving down highway 115 through Victoria county I saw acres and acres of pumpkins that had not been harvested. There are tomato fields in my area that were not touched because production was so good. Because of