

the years that came after, while there had been no changes in the tariffs of those countries until we were able to secure better terms from them than prevailed when we came into office. Let it be known that the restrictions that France raised against us reached their very highest when we came into office. Let it be known that a treaty has been negotiated with that republic under which we receive preferred treatment with respect to many commodities. Let it be known that we have negotiated treaties with Germany, with Austria and with other countries in Europe under the same conditions, and now we are negotiating a treaty with the United States of America.

This afternoon the right hon. gentleman suggested that this was a deathbed effort on our part. Let me ask him this: When he was in office, in that very year when the United States was raising its tariffs against Canada higher than they had been at any time in our history; when our people were suffering as they had never suffered before, because of the loss of that market to our agriculturists and others, what did we find him doing? He was standing in this very place, and the right hon. gentleman dared to say to the Canadian people, "Do not provoke them; we must not raise our tariffs against them." Let there be no misunderstanding.

Mr. HANBURY: It did not take you long to provoke them.

Mr. BENNETT: That is not so, for there has been no increase in the tariffs of the United States against us since we came into power.

Mr. HANBURY: I would ask the right hon. gentleman if there was not an excise tax.

Mr. VENIOT: What about the increase in the duty on lumber?

Mr. BENNETT: There was no tariff increase on lumber, for there has been no touching of the tariffs by the congress of the United States since we came into office. Any hon. gentleman who takes the trouble to read the records knows that.

Mr. HANBURY: Just an excise.

Mr. BENNETT: There was not a tariff increase against lumber.

Mr. HANBURY: That is a play on words.

Mr. BENNETT: There is no play on words; the president of the United States has put himself clearly on record as stating that there was no interference with tariffs by congress after 1930.

Mr. RALSTON: Just a \$3 tax.

Mr. BENNETT: There was an excise tax, of course, of which I am aware, but I would point out to this house that there was no tariff legislation; that is a fact.

Now let us go a step further. We opened up markets for lumber in the United Kingdom on a scale that had never been known before, and this gives me an opportunity to say what I want to say just here. By the introduction into the Ottawa agreements of a provision with respect to unfair competition we were able to secure for this country a favoured position. Now I come to the attitude of the right hon. gentleman opposite, who this afternoon said that the majorities secured by his recently elected supporters were obtained after the Ottawa agreements had been in force. Those agreements expire shortly, and we are told by those who are urging upon the British government the necessity for action that the lumber people say that the leader of the opposition in Canada says he is the man who should be in power, and that he has embarrassed and hurt this country in its dealings with the lumber industry. Not only has he embarrassed Canada but he has destroyed, to a very large extent, through the representations made by him and his friends, that which we were able to secure.

We will continue to fight that sort of thing, for I do believe that the Canadian people are coming more fully to realize just what has been meant by the opposition of hon. gentlemen opposite to the Ottawa agreements. In season and out of season they have exerted their force against them. They have said, as I shall show presently, that if they were in office they would repeal them, that they would destroy them. The fact is that they have endeavoured, and to a large extent succeeded in doing so, to build up in the old country the idea that the Canadian people are opposed to those agreements and that therefore they are no longer sought or desired. I ask hon. gentlemen opposite, do you wish these agreements or not?

Mr. HANBURY: We wish better ones.

Mr. BENNETT: Then why did you not get them during the nine years you were in power? I will not trouble this house by reading the records that I have, not only from this house but also from the hustings, as to what the right hon. gentleman and his followers have said they would do with these agreements if they came into power. I ask them now, are you prepared to rescind the Ottawa agreements? Are you prepared again to vote against those agreements? Well, you