

arrange as soon as possible after receiving the report of the commission now sitting on the reorganization of the pig industry in the United Kingdom, for the quantitative regulation of the supplies of bacon and hams coming on to the United Kingdom market—

That is what they propose to do; then they say:

—and undertake that in any legislation which they may submit to parliament—

Let us pause there. My hon. friends say that they do not say they will submit, but my submission is that this or any other article does not bind the British government or the British parliament. It does declare their intention, and up to the present they have kept faith. I am prepared and I am sure the committee is prepared to place implicit confidence in the British government's good faith to carry out what they declare to be their intention. They declare, "in any legislation which they submit to parliament"—mark you, they declare their intention—free entry for Canadian bacon and hams is permitted or guaranteed.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Either we have an agreement or we have no agreement. I am not enthusiastic about agreements of this nature, but if you are going to enter into a bargain, then you had better have a bargain. That is my suggestion. In this case you clearly have no bargain; you have no bargain even to introduce legislation. The declaration—and that is all this article is—is as follows:

His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom declare that it is their intention—

That is all you have in this article—a declaration of their intention.

—to arrange as soon as possible after receiving the report of the commission now sitting on the reorganization of the pig industry in the United Kingdom, for the quantitative regulation of the supplies of bacon and hams coming on to the United Kingdom market.

That is their declaration—that it is their intention to arrange for this quantitative regulation of supplies.

Mr. NICHOLSON: How are they going to arrange that?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Apparently no hon. member has seen fit to ask the British government about the matter.

Mr. NICHOLSON: By legislation.

Mr. ELLIOTT: That remains to be seen. Furthermore, they—

—undertake that in any legislation which they may submit to parliament—

[Mr. Stevens.]

"Which they may submit to parliament." If, after they consider this report, they decide to submit legislation to parliament—

—in any legislation which they may submit to parliament for regulating the supplies of bacon and hams from all sources into the United Kingdom, provision will be made for free entry of Canadian bacon and hams of good quality up to a maximum of 2,500,000 hundredweight per annum.

That is, if they do introduce legislation, they will make provision for that. In the article there is absolutely no undertaking to introduce legislation.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: One point that is significant with regard to this particular article, is the omission of a feature upon which, with respect to other articles, great emphasis has been laid by the government, namely, that the British government is in honour bound, if not legally bound, to maintain a certain tariff or to give a certain preference for a period of years to Canadian goods entering the British market. That in this article there is no mention of any period of years is doubly significant in view of the fact that the ministry is setting forth the importance of the article in respect of hog production. Assuming that the British government carries out its intention of introducing legislation, once it has done so and has given to Canada under that legislation free entry of the quantity mentioned in the article, the obligation of the British government, so far as Canada is concerned, is wholly and completely discharged. The British government would not be violating anything either expressed or implied in this article if six months later they were to repeal the legislation and impose a duty on hog products entering their country. Can the minister show us any place in this agreement where the British government binds itself to maintain this quantity for a period of years?

Mr. STEVENS: My right hon. friend has said that there is nothing implied or stated. If he will turn to article 22, he will find this: "It shall remain in force for a period of five years," and so forth. Let me point out to the right hon. gentleman and the committee that in article 6 we are dealing merely with one particular problem that came up in connection with the agreement. In the various articles we have dealt with different phases of the trade of Canada with the United Kingdom. In regard to this particular phase of our trade, the United Kingdom was faced with a difficulty which I have already described on two or three previous occasions