

to goods coming direct to a Canadian port, so that we may build up the ports of Canada. I repeat what I said earlier in the session: that it is a discredit to this great and growing country, this country of vast resources, this country with a magnificent revenue which has quadrupled since 1897 when the fiscal policy established by the Liberal Government was inaugurated and under which the foreign trade of this country has grown with marvellous rapidity; I say that a country with such wealth, such resources, such a rapidly increasing revenue, ought to be able to provide that the goods from our sister colonies in the West Indies should come direct to a Canadian port. It is a discredit to Canada that the great bulk of the trade and travel between Canada and the West Indies should be carried on through the port of New York. It does seem to me that my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) owes it to this House to inform us as to whether the Government is in a position, if this treaty is ratified by Parliament, to bring into force the provisions of this very important clause. My hon. friend may say as he said before that we must first get a good steamship service. That may be true, and perhaps it is only fair to the West Indies that that should be arranged for. But surely my hon. friend should have told the House what has been done by the Government in that regard; he should have told the House how near we are to a realization of what we believe is in the best interests of Canada and in the best interests of the West Indies. I listened with a great deal of interest to the remarks of my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Maclean) when, in speaking of this treaty with the West Indies, he took occasion to criticise the Minister of Trade and Commerce for certain remarks he had made in London to the effect that but for the rejection of the reciprocity arrangement with the United States, the bringing about of this treaty would not have been possible. I do not think my hon. friend is ordinarily carried away by the exhilaration usually attendant upon dinners in the city of London; but, had it been anybody else but my hon. friend himself who made an observation of that kind I should have thought the surroundings of the occasion had had an influence upon him. Nothing, certainly, could be further from the truth or less justifiable than a statement of that kind. My hon. friend and other members of the Government are open to the charge of having during the last season, given a vast deal of wrong information to the people of the Mother Country. My hon. friend is reported to have said on one occasion that the people of Canada, on the 21st of September last, emphatically declared their intention of remaining a part of the British Empire. I represent a province, the majority of

whose electors voted in favour of what we thought an arrangement most beneficial to the people of Canada; and on behalf of those people I hurl back upon my hon. friend the sentiments he expressed in London. The majority cast in the last election in favour of the party now in power was only 40,000. If that majority is held to have emphatically declared in favour of Canada remaining a part of the Empire, does not that mean that those who voted for the reciprocity arrangement were in favour of separation from the Empire? My hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen), who is not in his seat, was as great an offender, or even a greater offender, than my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce. He too is reported to have declared at some of these dinners that the people of Canada on the 21st of September made up their minds that they would never separate from the British Empire. By such statements these hon. gentlemen gave the public to understand that the question of separating from Great Britain and becoming a part of the United States was the question at issue in that campaign. I say these hon. gentlemen cast that insult upon the people of my province, and upon a majority of the people in three of the great provinces of Canada, people who are just as loyal, just as firmly attached to the Empire, just as determined that Canada shall for all time remain a part of the great British Empire, as the people who voted against the reciprocity arrangement. Is it any wonder that gentlemen like Mr. Walker Long and others who come from Great Britain to visit Canada go about making the absurd and unwarranted statements they have made?

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind the hon. gentleman of the rule concerning the confining of speeches to the subject under discussion.

Mr. PUGSLEY: That is what I am endeavouring to do, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. gentleman is wandering from the principle of this Bill.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I see the Minister of Finance (Mr. White) is not in his place, but might I, before I depart from this subject, relate an incident that recently took place in this city. One of these Unionist gentlemen was in Ottawa and was introduced to a gentleman who he thought was a member of the Government. The visitor said: 'I am delighted to meet you. I beg to assure you that you and the members of your Government occupy a warm place in the hearts of the people of England. We look upon you as the saviours of the Empire; and it is a matter of great gratification to me to meet you.'