

there, although I do not concede that it does not discriminate, but I rest it on the ground that this resolution is a violation of the terms of the treaties by curtailing the rights which are guaranteed thereby to Belgium and Germany. The right which Belgium and Germany have under these treaties is an absolute and unconditioned right, and this Parliament proposes to take from those powers an absolute and unconditional right, and substitute therefor a conditional right. Now, in order to understand this fully, let us turn to the particular clauses of the German treaty. There are four or five clauses which bear upon this case. The first I shall read is as follows:—

II. The produce and manufacturers of the dominions and possessions of Her Britannic Majesty which may be imported into the Zollverein, and the produce and manufactures of the States of the Zollverein which may be imported into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, whether intended for consumption, warehousing, re-exportation, or transit, shall therein be treated in the same manner as—

Now mark the particular words :

—and in particular shall be subject to no higher, or other, duties than the product and manufactures of any third country, the most-favoured in these respects.

There you will see that there is nothing said about treaties made with other powers. Goods coming from England into Canada should be admitted at no less customs duty than goods coming from Germany. It does not depend upon any special contract with any nation, but the stipulation in that treaty is this, which by the British view is binding, that goods coming into Canada irrespective of the country from which they come, shall not be admitted at less customs duty than similar goods coming from Germany. Now, there is another clause relating to the exportation which it is unnecessary for me to read, because it does not bear upon the case before us. I may say that there is a later clause which brings all the British colonies within the scope of this section.

V. Any favour, privilege, or reduction in the tariff or duties of importation or exportation, which either of the contracting parties may concede to any third power, should be extended immediately and unconditionally to the other.

Now mark those words. Remember that although it says "other powers," other high contracting powers, there is a later clause which applies all these cases to the British colonies. It is as follows:—

VII. The stipulation of the preceding Articles I. to VI. shall also be applied to the colonies and foreign possessions of Her Britannic Majesty. In those colonies and possessions the produce of the states of the Zollverein shall not be subject to any higher or other import duties than the produce of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or of any other country of the like kind. Nor shall the exportations from those colonies or possessions to the Zollverein be subject

to any higher or other duties than the exportation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Article V. reads :

Any favour privilege, &c., &c., should be extended immediately and unconditionally to the other.

Now let us look at that for a moment. Under that section we find that if British goods come in here—I do not care what arrangement may have the effect of letting them in, the fact of their coming in is what we must look to, the fact of their being admitted—if British goods come into this country at a 25 per cent rate, we will say, then we have got immediately and unconditionally to extend that privilege to every state that comes within this most highly-favoured-nation clause. What does the Government propose to do? Do they propose to extend it unconditionally? No, Sir. English goods come in at 25 per cent. What about Germany? Can she get her goods in at 25 per cent absolutely and unconditionally? No. But you say to her: We will give England the privilege of bringing in her goods at 25 per cent, and we will give you the same privilege provided you do the same, or as the Government contend, provided we made as much out of the arrangement as you do. But there is no such condition in the treaty. Germany and Belgium are entitled to it entirely and unconditionally, yet the Government has attempted to read conditions into this treaty. But not only have they read conditions, but they have read conditions which no self-respecting state on earth can accept. Now what are they? What has been done whenever there has been discrimination heretofore made by one country in favour of another? I have looked through all the treaties that have been entered into since commercial treaties were made by Great Britain, and all that were ever made by the United States, and I fail to find any provision in principle like this. They have all proceeded on the principle of giving either absolute free trade in certain articles, or giving a schedule with certain duties annexed, on the terms of which the United States or Great Britain or other states centralized with another state would admit goods into their country, and specifically naming certain articles and certain duties in accordance with which the other contracting power would admit into their territory goods from either Great Britain or the United States or other first power. But that principle is not adopted here. Now, I say that this resolution annexes conditions to Germany's rights and other favoured-nations' rights that no self-respecting state can accept. What are those conditions? We do not give to Germany and Belgium the right to come in here provided their tariff is reduced to a certain maximum the same in all cases. Their treaty right is that unconditionally they shall have the privilege