

pened to buy from them about seven or eight times as much as they buy from us, the canny German is beginning to discover that he made a mistake and he is very anxious to get out of it. He can get out of it if he pleases. All he has to do is to put himself in the same position he was in before the imposition of the preferential tariff.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I am not criticising the action of the government in the matter ; but as I understand it, both tariffs worked automatically against the interests of both countries. We found ourselves placed under the general conventional tariff of Germany, which is their higher tariff.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—They struck us out of the tariff we were under before.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—On account of the favoured nations treatment.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—No, not on account of the favoured nations treaty, but on account of our granting a preference to Great Britain.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Automatically we came under that tariff.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—They automatically come under ours.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—We legislated increasing the tariff practically by one-third above the regular tariff. It seems to me senseless that a politico-economic war should exist between two great commercial countries, and in view of the correspondence which has taken place over an arrangement which apparently is being negotiated at the present time, it seems to me it is a matter of interest to the commercial public whether this economic war is to be continued.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I am not prepared to say as to that. I may take occasion while I am on my feet to say to my hon. friend with respect to another matter as to which he inquired—that was the very courteous invitation tendered by president Roosevelt to our government to nominate some persons to appear

at Washington and discuss the question of the conservation of natural resources, that it is our intention to accept it, and to send some parties there to represent us.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Before the motion is adopted, my hon. friend will permit me to congratulate him on that portion of his speech especially which referred to the effect which will follow the construction of railways through the prairie portions of our country. Had I not known his voice, and if my eyes were shut. I should have thought some one was repeating the speeches made by Sir Charles Tupper about twenty-five years ago, when he predicted what the result of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway would be. That my hon. friend has become a convert to those views is gratifying to me, particularly when I remember the position he and those with whom he acted in those days took on that question. I think there is scarcely a man who has given that question any thought who will not agree with him as to the effect which will follow the opening of the vast territory to the west of us. Having congratulated my hon. friend on that point, let me ask a question, if he is at liberty to answer. I notice in the press, particularly the press supporting the government, that there was a proposition made, or that the government intended to introduce a measure providing for an increase of representation in this Senate : that is the increase of representation from the western portions of the country. We all know that under the constitutional Act there is no power to increase or even decrease the representation in the Senate, except by petitioning the imperial government. I am not going to discuss the propriety of it, but I think it would be very interesting for the country to know whether the government intend to introduce any measure of that kind. There is another point which we all feel very solicitous about ; that is how long the gentleman who has resigned his seat in the lower House to open a constituency for the minister of Inland Revenue is to remain out of the Senate. If the predictions which have been made by the ministerial press in Ontario are to materialize, of course that hon. gentleman will not be