

The words used were limited to that time. It read 'is' instead of 'hereafter,' and the object of this Bill is simply to add after the word 'is' the words 'or may hereafter be.' Attention was called to it first by the Customs Department and then by the Justice Department, that in the case of Japan we were not able to give them the advantages that we proposed under that treaty because it had reference to the existing treaty which was not included, of course, and this amendment to that Act simply adds the words 'may thereafter be agreed upon,' &c.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Has this reference to the French treaty or the Japan treaty?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There are treaties with countries in which what are called favoured nation clauses are introduced. These nations become entitled—should become entitled—to the advantages secured to France or any other country, since the time that they originally became entitled to it. Any country which has a treaty with Great Britain in which Canada is included, which makes provision for giving this country the favoured nation treatment should be entitled to the advantages which we gave to France, whereas under the existing commercial treaty it referred to that year only, and did not refer to the future at all. It is just amending it in that direction.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Has the language which this is designed to correct precluded the favoured nation treatment from being accorded to these countries since the passing of the treaty?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, strictly speaking.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—What has been the custom of the government in that regard?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Take Japan; the rights which Japan would be supposed to enjoy if the commercial treaty drawn in 1893 had been specific as was intended, were not intended to apply to countries that had come in in the past, but it was intended to apply to countries that might come in in the future, and the Customs Department have been giving the advantages under that treaty to Japan without really the authority of law.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Then the object of the change is to extend the provisions of the French treaty of Canada to Japan?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, that would be one thing. It makes no reference to Japan, but that is the object of it. Any country coming in afterwards would be entitled to the advantages of the French treaty if the treaty with England contained what is called the favoured nations clause.

The Bill was read the first time.

CANADIAN AND JAPANESE TREATY BILL.

FIRST READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT introduced Bill (E) An Act respecting a certain treaty between Canada and Japan. He said: On an opinion from the Department of Justice it was thought that the treaty with Japan deals with a number of articles that are set forth in our tariff, and therefore it was thought proper that the treaty made with Japan should be confirmed by parliament. In the treaty made with France, provision was made that it should be confirmed by parliament and the Bill was introduced in 1893 for that purpose. The object of the Bill, as I am now presenting it to the House, is to confirm the treaty with France by Act of parliament. It would have the advantage that it would be published in our statute-book. At present it is simply in booklet form, and not in convenient shape, and it is desirable that information should go broadcast, and the best possible way to secure that is by incorporating it in the volumes of our law. This Bill makes provision for confirming the treaty, and inserting the treaty word for word in schedule A.

The Bill was read the first time.

The Senate adjourned until 3 p.m., tomorrow.