

tended to mislead the public, but which would not succeed in so doing if their source were disclosed. I might ask the minister what is his objection to having the matter stand in committee and considered at a further stage?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I want to get the Bill out of committee, if possible. It has been a very long time in committee. I think the first suggestion of my hon. friend to move his amendment on the third reading is a good one. Or, if he likes, let the committee pass on it now. I am prepared to adopt either course.

Mr. FIELDING: I do not see any special reason why this Bill should get out of Committee to-day more than any other Bill. I think the suggestion to allow the Bill to remain in Committee is quite reasonable, for it will give the Government and hon. members time to consider the amendment.

Mr. GUTHRIE: It must be borne in mind that this is a pretty long Bill, and it has yet to go through the Senate. I am prepared to agree to my hon. friend's proposal to discuss his amendment on the third reading; or I am prepared to discuss it now. There is nothing else to hold the Bill in committee, and I would like very much to hear discussion on this amendment.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I might point out to my hon. friend that if the moment at which I am moving this amendment is late it is owing to the fact this is the first opportunity I have had of submitting an amendment of the kind since the Bill has been in committee. It is not at all the fault of any of us on this side of the House that we have reached the end of the session with the Bill not through committee; that is wholly the fault of the Government. On the other hand, I am as anxious as my hon. friend to see the session brought to a close with as little delay as possible. I realize, in view of what my hon. friend has said, that if we voted on the amendment now it would be for the purpose of defeating it.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That would not prevent my hon. friend moving it on the third reading.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not wish to have the amendment defeated even in committee, because I think it is one which if hon. gentlemen read they will find to be very much in the public interest. I am quite prepared to allow it to stand over until the third reading. [But I hope in
[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

the meantime hon. members will read the amendment as it appears on Hansard, and if possible, on the third reading give it their sympathetic support.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I am quite agreeable not only to study the amendment, but to consult my colleagues on it. It may be we will agree or disagree. But in the meantime I think the Bill should get through committee in order that its further passage may be facilitated.

Bill as amended reported.

THE FRENCH TREATY.

On motion for Committee of Supply:

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX (Maisonneuve): Mr. Speaker, before you leave the Chair I would like once more to call the attention of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce to the question of the French treaty. I know that my right hon. friend is quite prepared to answer any remarks I may make. I wish only to discharge a duty, and I know that my hon. friend, if I have not been able to give him any notice, can answer at once—

Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Maybe my hon. friend will allow me to tell him what the present position is, and then he may not find it necessary to make a speech on the subject.

Mr. LEMIEUX: As I gathered from my right hon. friend that he has a re-assuring statement to make I wish to yield to him.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I am sorry the House will not have an opportunity to hear a speech from my hon. friend, but at this late date of the session I suppose we all wish to avoid set speeches. My hon. friend and the House itself, I think, know pretty well what the situation has been with regard to the French treaty. It has been denounced and it went out of operation on the 19th day of June. Some negotiations have been passing since, and a proposition has been made to the French Government by which in return for a reasonable compensation of import duties on lines of articles exported from Canada the French Government will be given the benefit of the intermediate tariff, and thus be put on the same footing as those nations which at the present time enjoy that benefit.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Shall we get from the French Government a continuation of the privilege of the minimum tariff? I am in-