

Germany manufacturing the same class of goods and shipping them into this country.

Mr. FIELDING. That would be a question with regard to the general tariff policy of the country, and I would hardly be able to answer that off-hand. I do not quite see that it has any particular relation to the surtax, because the surtax was not adopted as a revenue measure, nor in a sense was it even a protective measure; it was something over and above the revenue and protective elements in the Canadian tariff. It was imposed to meet a hostile position of affairs on the part of Germany, and when Germany abandoned its hostile attitude we felt free to remove the surtax. My hon. friend's question would have relation to the general question of the duty on raw materials, and I would not be free to answer that off-hand.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Would the Minister of Finance tell us the precise difference, if there be any difference, between the treatment accorded by Germany to Canada under this new arrangement, and the treatment accorded by Germany to the rest of the empire in respect to tariff matters?

Mr. FIELDING. I understand that Great Britain receives the full conventional tariff, and in return for that Great Britain necessarily guarantees to Germany the most favoured terms that are granted to any foreign country. We have declined to grant to Germany, for good reasons we think, the most favoured terms that are granted to any foreign country, and so we have made only a partial arrangement. We receive the German conventional tariff on a specified list of articles in return for the abolition of the surtax. Great Britain would receive the full conventional tariff without any limitation.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I am speaking of the empire as a whole. Does the hon. gentleman mean by the term 'Great Britain' to include all the rest of the empire, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, &c.? It is most particularly in regard to them that I was asking.

Mr. FIELDING. All the self-governing colonies, of course, in all recent negotiations, are treated independently of the United Kingdom. I will look into the matter from the point of view of Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. While it is only a matter of recollection, I understood that after the German treaty was denounced, another treaty was entered into between Germany and Great Britain, the terms of which included all the dominions of the empire except Canada. I would like to know whether or not the German conventional treaty, so called, applies in full force not only to

Great Britain alone, but to the rest of the empire under any such arrangement.

Mr. FIELDING. I will look more closely into that, but the essence of the arrangement in any case would be that if any portion of the empire receives the full conventional German tariff it must guarantee to Germany most favoured nation treatment, and as we are not prepared to guarantee that to Germany to-day we would not be in the same position to demand the full conventional tariff. However, it is a matter of reasoning. I will endeavour to ascertain the facts.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It is not altogether a matter of reasoning, but it would rather depend on the terms of the treaty.

Mr. FIELDING. I have no difficulty in knowing that the German conventional tariff will be given in its fullness only to portions of the empire which are willing to give most favoured nation treatment to Germany. That is one of the first principles of international negotiation, and I think my judgment of it is right, but I will look into the facts as suggested by the hon. gentleman.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. LENNOX. I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Railways (Mr. Graham) to a return ordered by the House with reference to Transcontinental railway matters on the 24th January, last. I have reason to believe, from certain things that have transpired since, that the return has been ready for some time although it has not been laid on the table.

Mr. STAPLES. I wish to call the attention of the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) to an order that passed this House regarding papers dealing with the establishment of a post office at St. Charles in the constituency of Macdonald, and I would like to ask when we may expect these papers to be brought down.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I will see that they are brought down as soon as possible.

Mr. OWEN. I wish to ask the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) if he has issued an order that parcels sent by registered post must be signed for at their destination by the party to whom they are addressed before they will be delivered up.

Mr. LEMIEUX. If my hon. friend (Mr. Owen) will put a question on the Order Paper I will answer. This is an order from the department of which I may not have had any knowledge.

Mr. MAGRATH. I wish to call the attention of the Postmaster General to an order issued on December 13, and to a return brought down by the Minister of