

control their own tariff. If they need our products, agricultural or manufactured, we are quite willing they should arrange their own tariff with respect to them. The people of Canada by their decision of the 21st of September, 1911, announced that Canada desired to continue to have the right of also controlling her own tariff, and if we decide to have a high tariff, or a low tariff, or an intermediate tariff, we can control it ourselves. But, the people of Canada were unwilling we should enter into an agreement with our powerful neighbours to the south, which would, in effect, give them control over our tariff legislation and to that extent jeopardize our fiscal independence. That was the verdict of the Canadian people. The Liberal party simply made a mistake in appealing to them on that issue, and that mistake seems to hang over the Liberal party to-day as a sort of obsession, and occasionally men like my hon. friend from Red Deer tell us about the benefit which would accrue from this reciprocity agreement. Well, the reciprocity agreement is dead; reciprocity is dead; the people of Canada have decided against it. It was not this Government, it was the people of Canada whose servants we all are who decided against the reciprocity agreement. What has my hon. friend from Red Deer to say of the statement made by President Taft in his letter of April of last year to ex-President Roosevelt. Mr. Taft is the head of the neighbouring republic and we all highly respect him and President Taft's idea of what reciprocity would do was, he stated in a short but telling sentence; it would transfer to Chicago and American points Canadian bank credits and everything else. These are the words of President Taft: 'everything else.' What has my hon. friend from Red Deer to say to that?

Mr. PUGSLEY: Does the Minister of Finance agree with those remarks of President Taft?

Mr. WHITE: Well, 'everything else' is a fairly sweeping term, and it might include even transferring the House of Commons and a great many other things to the United States.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Does the hon. gentleman agree that the effect of that agreement would have been to transfer the business of our great cities, such as Montreal and Toronto, to Chicago and New York?

Mr. WHITE: It would have had a very serious adverse effect upon all our great Canadian cities. You may have an unsound judgment given by a people on the spur of the moment, or in the height of passion, but when you get a people intellectually and morally sound as the Canadian people are, to consider such a question as

Mr. WHITE (Leeds).

reciprocity, not for one month, or two months, or three months, or six months, but for two years, and when you get the judgment of that people on that issue, after such consideration, I think I can say that you get a pretty sound and well-reasoned judgment. I would submit, for the consideration of hon. gentlemen opposite, that when we have got that judgment as we did get it on the 21st of September, 1911, we ought to bow to it and accept it. That is the position to-day so far as reciprocity is concerned.

Mr. FOSTER (North Toronto): I want to draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that there is a Bill before the House, and we have had by gentlemen on both sides a pretty wide discussion, which has been a long way off from the Bill. From this time forward, I shall have to press the point of order against everybody, that we should consider the Bill before us.

Hon. WM. PUGSLEY: Before the Minister of Trade and Commerce asks the House to give this Bill a second reading, he should have informed the House as to what has been done in regard to what I consider a most important section in the treaty. That section is:

The Government of Canada may provide that, to be entitled to the concessions granted in section 2, the products of any of the above mentioned colonies shall be conveyed by ship direct without transshipment from the said colony or from one of the other colonies entitled to the advantages of this agreement into a sea or river port of Canada.

Provided that should the discretion herein granted be at any time exercised by the Government of Canada, provision shall be made in all contracts entered into with steamships subsidized by the Dominion plying between ports in Canada and ports in the colonies, which are parties to this agreement, for an effective control of rates of freight.

Now, one of the reasons which might fairly influence this Parliament to approve of that agreement is the fact that it provides, that just as soon as the Government can secure effective control of the rates of freight of steamships between Canada and the West Indies, it may by proclamation declare that the benefits of this treaty, so far as Canada is concerned, shall only apply to goods which are brought direct from the West Indies to a Canadian port. The hon. gentleman has not given the House the slightest information as to what has been done in respect to that important clause of the treaty. I am satisfied that it is the feeling of the people of Canada that in making treaties with any foreign country, or with any of the Overseas Dominions of the Empire, or colonies of the Empire, it should be provided as far as possible that the preference which is given to such countries should only apply