

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—It is not my intention to contribute to the debate on this question, but I would like to call the attention of the hon. gentleman who made the assertion just now that the insurance on the St. Lawrence has been reduced owing to the improvements which had taken place, to the proceedings of the board of trade and the utterances made by those who discussed questions affecting the navigation of the St. Lawrence which appeared in to-day's 'Gazette.' He will find that the insurance has been increased, and that a resolution has been passed calling upon the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and also upon other authorities, to take steps in the direction of reducing the insurance which is now imposed and the extra insurance which has been imposed upon what are termed the tramp shipping.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—I will certainly call the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to that matter, but I think if my hon. friend looks a little deeper he will find that there has been a material reduction, not perhaps as between this year and last, but as between this year and a matter of seven or eight years ago.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—I am not prepared to deny that, because I have not read the report carefully, but I just call attention to to-day's paper in which the directly opposite statements are made.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—I am obliged to my hon. friend for calling attention to it. I will take occasion to call it to the attention of the Minister of Marine, on whose authority, by the way, I made the statement. I think, however, because this is a matter that to some extent comes under my own purview, as Minister of Trade and Commerce, that he will find that I am correct in stating that even if there has been some alteration made recently in the rates of insurance there has been a material reduction within the course of the last five or six years.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—I will just read the resolution I have referred to. I have no doubt that in a matter of this

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

kind my hon. friend may have been misled, or he may have drawn deductions from the fact of the immense amount of money that has been spent on the St. Lawrence, and the result of which ought to have been what my hon. friend has indicated. The resolution reads:

Be it resolved that the council of the board of trade be instructed to take such step as may be necessary to investigate as to the cause of such extra insurance being continued, in view of the very great improvements which have been made in the channel of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence in recent years.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—That might be quite consistent with my view and my hon. friend's view.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.—I do not know whether my hon. friend overlooked the question which I asked yesterday, but it was in the way of eliciting information, namely, as to whether any negotiations have been carried on between this government and the German government with reference to the removal of the reprisals between the two countries?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—I might just say to my hon. friend that no formal negotiations have been carried on. There have been some pour-parlers with some official of the German government, but I would point out to him that we have never protected against Germany, and it is in the power of the German government to emancipate themselves completely from our surtax if they only choose to do so. He will recollect that the surtax was imposed in consequence of the Germans deliberately putting us in the worst position they possibly could, as a penalty for our granting a special favour in the preferential tariff to our mother country, Great Britain, and we intimated to the Germans that it was not part of their business, what one portion of the British empire did in respect to another portion of it, a view in which I think my hon. friend will sustain me. Thereupon the Germans shook their fists at us, took us out of the category in which Great Britain was, and placed us in an inferior category. They have a kind of triple category, like ourselves. We said, 'If you are going to do this because we trade on even terms with Great Britain, we shall put a surtax on you' and as we hap-