

expect to get 10 or 15 cents for their eggs or 15 or 20 cents for their butter. For that reason I am opposed to this Treaty. I think it is unreasonable and unfair that 75 per cent of the people of this country should be sacrificed for the purpose of giving a few pulp-milling concerns the freedom of the Australian market.

Hon. F. L. BEIQUÉ: Honourable gentlemen, I have been unable to follow this debate, and I must confess that I was quite uncertain as to whether I would be justified in voting upon this measure or not. I was very much pleased to hear the right honourable member for Ottawa (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster) giving us the benefit of his large experience in this matter. As he told us he had occasion to go into this question very thoroughly years ago, and I think he is in a position to appreciate the situation better, maybe than any other member of this House.

I am and always have been, as the right honourable member is, very strongly in favour of preferential trade within the Empire and it was a source of regret to me that such an arrangement could not be obtained with Australia. I am glad that the honourable member, with his large experience, has come to the conclusion that this will be the means of getting that preference and that, although there may be imperfections, they may be corrected either by raising the tariff on certain articles or otherwise. In any case I feel that it would be fitting, on the first opportunity we have to obtain a preference with Australia, for which we have been looking for a good many years not to lose it by refusing to pass this Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, we know that repeated efforts have been made during the last thirty years to reach a certain agreement with Australia. The right honourable gentleman from Ottawa (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster) has told us of his own pilgrimage to Melbourne, and of his attempt to bring back to Canada a satisfactory arrangement. He has well said that when we sit around the table with Australian delegates we are handicapped by the condition of our present exchange. We are selling to them \$12,000,000 worth, and they are selling to us over \$2,000,000 worth. But when we look at the value of the Australian market, of its purchases and its imports, we find that there it offers a fair field for Canadian development and expansion.

The honourable gentlemen who interest themselves more especially in farming and in the production of fruits and dairy products have expressed fear at what might

Hon. Mr. GILLIS.

happen under this arrangement. Well, they must rely upon the study that has been made by the officers of the various Departments. The Minister of Finance has not signed this agreement without availing himself of the proper advice and counsel. He has consulted the dairy industry and the people who are mostly interested in supervising the administration of the Department of Agriculture. For instance, he finds that cheese and butter produced in Australia are mainly sold in the British market, where the price is fixed, and that there is very little danger of cheese and butter from Australia reaching our shores to any extent. As the right honourable gentleman has said, the trade of Australia is towards Great Britain. I may mention the fact that the total exports of butter from Australia for 1922-23 were 79,000,000 pounds, of which 70,000,000 pounds went to Great Britain. The total exports of cheese from Australia were 5,450,466 pounds, while our exports were 126,963,200 pounds. Surely in such a situation there is no danger to our cheese industry.

We have given Australia a large benefit in the sale of its raisins, of which we produce none in Canada. We had to find some article that would be acceptable, and would represent some advantage for Australia, and we raised the tariff to 3 cents on raisins in order to give Australia a chance to place some of its produce in Canada.

This Treaty is welcomed by the industries. I have heard many honourable friends complain during this Session and preceding Sessions that our policy did not tend to help industry. In fact, the complaint has been repeatedly heard that we are prisoners of the farmers of the West, and that we had no regard for the industries of the country outside of farming. Well, here we show Parliament that we can take a larger view, that our interest covers all the activities of Canada, and I am convinced that experience will demonstrate that the fear that has been expressed in this House that some of our natural products might be affected will prove to be unfounded.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: Is it a fact that the Treaty can be terminated on six months notice?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Willoughby in the Chair.

Sections 1 and 2 were agreed to.