

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—The hon. gentleman means a French-speaking minister.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Yes.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—The vacancies I hope will be all filled before we meet again. In regard to the other matter I should be delighted to give my hon. friend any information if I had it.

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (No. 233) an Act to amend the Customs Tariff, 1907.

The Bill was read the first time.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT moved the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Does the hon. leader of the House propose to give us any information as to the effect the changes will have upon the revenue?

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—Does my hon. friend mean with respect to the German tariff or the French tariff?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not know what the Bill is. Consequently I am unable to answer my hon. friend correctly. If it is for the purpose of reducing the tariff in conformity with the arrangement entered into with the United States, I can understand it. That is what I had reference to, not to the French tariff, because we are not dealing with that at the present moment, only by way of comparison.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—With respect to the United States, the effect of the change in the tariff will be but small. The greatest reduction, I think, is only 2½ per cent on a moderate variety of articles of which we do not consume any very great quantity, nor are we likely to import any very large amount from the United States. It is difficult to ascertain the exact amount, because we can hardly tell as yet to what extent the one importation will supplant the other, but I should

think it would hardly exceed more than a couple of hundred thousand dollars, and that may be made up by increased importations.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—In studying this question a little, if the right hon. gentleman had given any attention to it, he would find that it affects importations to this country to the extent of over \$6,000,000. The total trade affected by this and the French tariff amounts to a little over \$8,000,000, but when you deduct from that \$8,000,000 the importations that may be entered into Canada as coming from France it reduces the dutiable articles that will be imported—that is speaking of last year's importation—to the extent of over \$6,000,000, so that in the arrangements which were made with the United States the tariff will be affected to the extent of over \$1,000,000.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—Yes, but it would only be affected at the rate of about 2½ per cent as far as the revenue is concerned.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It would affect the revenue to the extent of between one and two million dollars. I do not propose to occupy much time in connection with this, further than to express the opinion that the government, in its intercourse with the United States, and between the Finance Minister and the President of the United States took a position that should not have been taken. When the Conservative government were in power, they were charged with taking such steps as led to the rejection of any overtures that were made towards extending or adopting the principle suggested here. It was distinctly declared by the present premier that if the Liberal party came into power in less than six months they would secure a reciprocity treaty with the United States. I am not complaining that a reciprocity treaty was not made, because I have not been, and am not now, in favour of such an arrangement, for reasons with which I do not propose to detain the House at the present moment explaining. We know also that the present government sent a deputation to Washington—and I think the hon. leader of the