

mark, Japan, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and Venezuela. I left out the name of France, because we have a treaty with her. As I understand it, these are the favoured-nation countries, and as I understand it, every one of these countries will be entitled to ship their farm products in here, and to compete with our own farmers, if this treaty goes through. Butter from Denmark can come in to Montreal in competition with our Canadian butter, and come in free, butter from Australia can come free into British Columbia and flood the market there, and the same remark applies to every other country I have named. Now, when this deputation of western farmers was down here last fall, and they were asking for a lower tariff with the United States, we did not hear either the Minister of Finance or the Prime Minister, who received that deputation, telling them: Gentlemen, if we carry out your wishes, there will be twelve other countries allowed to send in their stuff and compete with yours. If the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Customs had stood up then and told that deputation from the west: If we do this for you, you are going to have the Argentine Republic, you are going to have Russia, shipping their wheat in here free to compete with ours, you are going to have butter, and poultry, and cheese from all these countries coming in here free; I venture to say that if the government had told the western farmers this, they would have turned round and said: Don't make any such arrangement with the United States. Now, my object in asking that question was that the farmers of this country, from one end to the other, would understand what the effect of this arrangement would be, and whether it allows twelve other countries besides the United States, and the British colonies to send their goods in here free. There are members of this House who, until a few days ago, did not really understand the whole situation; and why should not the Minister of Finance, when this question is asked him, jump up and tell the people the exact truth. I venture to say that the Minister of Finance dare not go out into the Northwest to-day and tell the farmers that all these countries are going to import their stuff free into Canada. Every farmer with whom I have talked yet, when he is told that there are twelve other countries going to have the same advantage as the United States, is opposed to this proposition. The whole course of the Minister of Finance shows that he is trying to deceive the people of this Dominion as to the true position of the matter.

Mr. SPROULE. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. REID (Grenville). I want the Minister of Finance to answer that question, yes or no.

Mr. FIELDING. I have no right to speak. My hon. friend has asked a question, and I could not answer it in any plainer English than I used in answering the same question more comprehensively put by the hon. member for North Ontario (Mr. Sharpe). I think the hon. member understands it well enough, but it suits his purpose to pretend that he does not.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not regard the answer as entirely definite. The reference in it is to dutiable goods, it says nothing at all about the free list. I suppose there was an obvious intention in making that omission. Why should not the hon. gentleman be able to inform this House, in the first place—

Mr. FIELDING. On what point?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Whether the Argentine Republic will have the right to send its goods into our territory on the same terms as the United States?

Mr. FIELDING. That is answered, my answer says so.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Well, we have the answer now; that is correct. Then will the hon. gentleman tell us if Austria-Hungary will have the same right?

Mr. FIELDING. The same answer.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will Bolivia have the same right?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will Colombia have the same right?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Denmark the same right?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Japan the same right?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Norway the same right?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Russia the same right?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Spain the same right?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Sweden the same right?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Switzerland the same right?