

interests of the people of this country; at all events, not in the interest of the great maritime ports of Canada. I think the matter to which I have directed the attention of the government is one of considerable importance, and I do trust that we will have from the Prime Minister, when he comes to address the House, some reliable information as to these very important questions.

I did not observe any reference in the speech from the Throne to the waterways treaty. The Prime Minister was good enough to tell us a day or two ago that the matter is still under the consideration of the government. If it is still under the consideration of the government I cannot reasonably expect any very definite information to-day, but I think the decision of the government, as soon as it is made, should be announced to the House in order that there may be an opportunity for debate, because I still adhere to the view which I expressed last session, and, I think, the previous session as well, that this treaty, inasmuch as it involves, to a certain extent at least, territorial rights, ought not, according to the modern and, I think, the better British practice, to have been entered into without having been made subject to the ratification of this parliament. Inasmuch as that course was not pursued it is only right and absolutely in the public interest that we should have all the information in regard to it as soon as possible.

I remember also, that the Prime Minister, at the concluding session of the imperial conference of 1907, proposed to the conference a certain famous resolution. I do not know whether many hon. gentlemen in this House can remember it thoroughly or not because the matter seems to have faded pretty well out of the public view in the meantime. As a matter of fact it concerned what was called the All-red line and the Liberal press throughout the country heralded the idea of the All-red line as one which had sprung in full armour, like Minerva from the brain of Jove, from the brain of the Prime Minister of this country. So, a resolution was introduced in the concluding days of the session of 1908—I think it was—the matter was placed before parliament for its consideration and the resolution, in the terms proposed by the government, was eventually passed. During the last session of parliament I asked for some information as to the position of, and as to the progress, if any, which had been made in this affair, and, as far as I recollect from the reply of the Prime Minister, it did not seem that any great progress had been made up to that time in that direction. It is possible that some progress has been made in that direction and if so I have no doubt the Prime Minister will give to this

House all such information as may be available in that regard.

Allusion is made in the speech from the Throne to the French treaty. I do not desire to say one single word in regard to it which would in any way embarrass the government in its consideration of what appears to be a very difficult question. I have under my hand the tariff recently adopted by the United States of America. Every hon. gentleman in this House who has given any consideration to this question at all knows the terms of the second section of the American tariff of 1909. The second section of that tariff provides that the rates set forth in section 1 of the Act shall be the tariff to be levied in the United States upon goods coming from all foreign countries together with 25 per cent ad valorem in addition thereto unless the President of the United States shall after taking into consideration the fiscal measures of other countries, come to the conclusion that the United States has in every respect reciprocal and fair treatment from such other countries, and shall make proclamation accordingly. In the absence of any such proclamation by the President of the United States—and, of course, he has to depend, as we understand, for his advice in that regard, upon a board of experts whom he has appointed—every article exported from Canada to the United States, or from any other country to the United States, shall be subject not only to the tariff set forth in section 1 of the Act but to 25 per cent ad valorem as well. I do not to-day propose to enter into any debate upon the bearing of the treaty with the French Republic, but I shall venture to bring to the attention of the government a consideration of our relative trade with France and with the United States during the past three years. Our aggregate imports from France during the past three years amounted to \$24,798,756; our aggregate imports from the United States during the same period amounted to \$546,622,404 or about 25 times greater than those from France. Our exports to France during the same period of three years amounted to \$6,392,400 and our exports to the United States during the same period amounted to \$285,146,337 or nearly fifty times as much. Under these circumstances I must confess that a consideration of the French treaty will involve some matters of serious import, and when that treaty does come to be considered I trust we shall have from the minister in charge of it some definite information as to what effect its ratification may have in connection with the probable effect of the United States tariff.

The hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address made some reference to the paragraph in the speech from the Throne which alludes to the subject of