

How can confidence be restored when the government are negotiating treaties all the time, always negotiating treaties with someone? That has been the custom in the past, but this government has negotiated more than we ever did. I do not think we have been guilty of so many offences that have hurt the country so much. The man who has a vision of the future can see that the treaty now negotiated will drive some subsidiary companies back to the United States, and prevent anybody from putting his money into either business or industry. In my riding there are many industries, because when the big fire occurred down-town one time they were driven to the outskirts and we got many of the factories. Some of the people operating these industries to-day are afraid to say a word, afraid to express an opinion, about this treaty. I have not much sympathy for some of them because they did not support a government that would have given them stability, but now they are out howling on the housetops, but afraid to say a word to the government. It is not good for a man in business or industry to be afraid to talk to the government; they cannot put him in a penitentiary unless he commits a crime; in any event you can always tell them what you think of them. It is true that importers will like this treaty; but they, like the man who puts all his money in bonds, are another class for whom I have very little use. They bring stuff from any country in the world where they can get it and kill manufacturing industry in this dominion. The importer may sit in an office in a twenty-storey building and look out of the window for half his time or look at his nice stenographer, while stealing business from the Canadian manufacturer by bringing stuff from all parts of the world and particularly Europe.

An hon. MEMBER: What about the hon. member himself?

Mr. SPENCE: I was an importer for years, but I kept up a big warehouse, employing ten to twenty men as a rule, and had a big overhead. I am talking about the man who has no overhead except the rent of an office. They are the men who are helping to kill industry in this country. I was in the wholesale fruit business and I have knowledge of the difficulties of the fruit and vegetable growers to-day, competing with growers in a country in which climatic conditions are so much more favourable. There are many states in the union in which two or three crops a year can be grown; that cannot be done in Canada. Some may tell us that they do it in British Columbia, but I do not know any place in this dominion where it can be done

successfully. In Canada to-day the duty on fruit and vegetables is only 10 per cent. That should never have come about. Back in 1930 it was 30 per cent, and even then growers of fruit and vegetables had a difficult task.

Mr. EULER: Surely it is more than that now in certain seasons.

Mr. SPENCE: Under the new treaty it is only 10 per cent. When the Prime Minister went to Washington and signed the former treaty the duty on fruit and vegetables was cut in half, to 15 per cent, and then by this treaty hon. gentlemen have cut it a further 5 per cent, which leaves only 10 per cent. That is no protection whatever to Canadian growers who have to compete with growers in a country in which climatic conditions permit the growing of two or three crops a year. Before the Fordney-McCumber tariff was put into effect in the United States in 1923 we had a good market in Detroit and some of the other neighbouring United States cities, particularly for Leamington melons, tomatoes and all kinds of early vegetables. But that tariff which the United States saw fit to put up against our people shut out practically everything. Then came the Hawley-Smoot tariff in 1930, which entirely closed the United States market for our dairy products as well as fruit and vegetables. How can a country get along under such treatment? It is ridiculous. True, we are now getting some advantage on potatoes, but we are giving the same advantage. Our hon. friends have allowed the Americans to set a quota on potatoes going into the United States, and as someone said, one county in this country could produce enough potatoes to supply that quota. Do not ever think that the United States are not looking after themselves; I have dealt with the business people there; they will always give you a sandwich if you give them the pig. We should never have negotiated this treaty. We were in no position to negotiate a treaty at the time when this one was negotiated, because our duties were all too low compared with theirs. And if the treaty applied only to the United States, as it purports to do, it would not be so bad; for after all the United States are good friends and we want to be friendly with them. But under the most favoured nation clause our concessions apply also to countries that are no friends of Canada. I shall not mention names, but there are several of them.

There is no one in this house who can paint a better picture with figures than the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Euler), or the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). They are both dandies at that sort of thing. But