

licity before we were asked to approve the agreements. I was taking exception not to the publicity, but to my right hon. friend's motion to approve the agreements before we knew what was in them.

Mr. BENNETT: Surely my right hon. friend is not serious. The fullest opportunity will be given for consideration and discussion, but the motion for approval must be made in order that the agreements may be presented to the house. The motion for ways and means must be made in order that the Minister of Finance may deal with the tariff schedules. The practice that has always prevailed must necessarily prevail in this instance.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Could my right hon. friend not table the agreements and then have the schedules moved to ways and means without pursuing his motion to approve them in advance?

Mr. BENNETT: I am told not. I think this would be the sound rule, because I find that Mr. Fielding, when he brought down the French treaty in 1923, moved that the treaty be approved and effect be given to it, and then he gave an explanation of the treaty—because the tariff schedules must not be made public before they become effective. One of the discussions that took place at the Imperial conference at some length was as to the best way in which this could be done without making them public so far as tariff operations are concerned. A different practice prevails in Great Britain from that followed in this country, and different practices prevail in different parts of the empire. So far as we are concerned, however, we are following the well-defined practice of years, a universal practice so far as this country is concerned. When on Wednesday next I make the motion I trust I may be able to make, and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) moves that at the next sitting the house go into committee of ways and means, it will be for the purpose of enabling us to follow the course which has always been followed in this parliament whereby tariff schedules become effective on the day they are moved in the committee of ways and means. That is the reason this course has been adopted. It will be observed that in cases other than that of the United Kingdom, bills are to be introduced. The agreements with the Free State and South Africa, for instance, a different course altogether is followed. In the case of Great Britain's concessions to Canada, they could of course be published, as has already been done. But variations and changes in the

tariff of this country will be made public only when the committee stage is moved in order that there may be no action taken by traders in anticipation of tariff changes. I think that is a fairly reasonable explanation for following the course we have adopted, and I assure the right hon. gentleman, I assure those who sit near him, and hon. members in every part of the house, that so far as this government is concerned the fullest opportunity will be afforded to all to study these agreements in their entirety. There is no desire to do other than the right hon. gentleman has pleaded that we should do, namely to allow the action of the executive to be subject to the approval of parliament. That is the position we have taken. We have not endeavoured, as an executive, to do anything that bound the people of Canada or this parliament, nor has the executive of the United Kingdom or any other part of the British Empire taken any action which bound parliaments or peoples until such time as the people's representatives in parliament had expressed approval. The action of the executive has been made subject in express terms to the action of parliament. Hence it is that the British parliament is dealing with the agreements at their advance session of parliament; hence it is that the parliaments of every part of the empire are dealing with these matters. Instead of the executives usurping their powers they have reserved the paramount right of parliament to express approval or disapproval of the agreements that have been made, and it is in order that the power of parliament may be exercised that the motion to which I have referred will be made on Wednesday next. At that time this parliament will be seized of the facts in their entirety and may take such action as they may desire.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask my right hon. friend when we may expect the debate to be continued?

Mr. BENNETT: I shall be pleased Mr. Speaker, to meet any reasonable requests that may be made in that regard.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I suggest Monday of the week following.

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot say definitely at the moment. I think perhaps the right hon. gentleman will understand that until he has seen the schedules he could not request a definite date. However, when he has seen the schedules I shall be glad to agree to any reasonable requests he may make.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Thank you.