

years more getting the same benefit and giving nothing in return, but they propose here to give something in return, and I want to say that these islands have pinched themselves in some respects in order to give us that return. They have gone as far as it is possible for them to go, under their conditions, to give us a preference in return, to show their goodwill and to occupy the position of being manly traders one with the other. At the same time they may say: we came to Canada to make an agreement and we gave you twenty per cent and we have never given you anything before; you give the British preference uniformly to every other British country, except Australia; you give it to all other colonies and other dependencies, and so long as you do it sends us back to our homes in rather an odd position if we say we went up there to make an agreement, and having made the agreement the result was that we cut down the preference given to us in Canada below that given to every other country. They did not ask for sub-section (b). It is not in the agreement but it was well understood that so long as we kept the British preference it was to be given to them. You may cut that out but if you do you will do rather an injustice to the people of the West Indies as compared with every other British colony and dependency which enjoys the full preference. That was put in as a piece of good-will.

Mr. MACDONALD: Was it not put in the agreement?

Mr. FOSTER: It was not put in the agreement because the agreement contemplates an enduring thing on both sides, but it was not meant to interrupt the action of common good will which is extended to almost every British community in the world so far as our British preference is concerned. I do not think the House wants that to go out.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I do not think there would be any objections to sections 6, 7, 8, and 9 passing and that would only leave sections 3, 4, and 5 to be considered when the Bill is next taken up. If section 3 is to be there at all I would like it to make the same provision in regard to schedule C as to schedule B, and it could be amended by adding words so as to read: 'In schedules B and C' instead of in schedule B alone. Why not take up sections 6, 7, 8, and 9 and leave the others for consideration.

Mr. FOSTER: Very well.

On section 6, extension to other colonies in schedule D.

Mr. MACDONALD: Where would Canada's interest be under this arrangement,

assuming that a trade agreement was made between the Bahamas and the Bermudas and the United States?

Mr. FOSTER: This agreement lasts for three years. I do not understand that these colonies are seeking any such agreement.

Mr. MACDONALD: I so saw it stated in the press.

Mr. FOSTER: My information is different. There is a tariff hearing at Washington and there has been a proposition that limes shall come into the United States at a lesser duty, and that various other tropical fruits shall be free. Those interested in lime culture and other fruits in the Bahamas and other West Indian Islands have representatives before that committee asking that the duty on limes be removed or reduced, but that is not a question of the administration of the Bahamas or the Bermudas making a reciprocity treaty.

Mr. MACDONALD: Suppose for example British Guiana should make a trade arrangement with the United States in regard to any article included in this arrangement would we not be compelled to accord some privilege to the United States?

Mr. FOSTER: Not in the least by any arrangement we have made with British Guiana.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): Has the minister taken into consideration the point I raised when the resolution was first presented to the House? The Government of Newfoundland intimated to the Royal Commission that they would like to be considered as a party to this agreement, if any arrangement were concluded between Canada and the West Indies. I suppose that it was in consideration of that request that the negotiators of this agreement added Newfoundland to the schedule. At the time the resolutions were presented to the House, I suggested that Newfoundland should not appear in schedule D. The minister treated the objection rather lightly at that time. I do not propose pressing it very much beyond calling his attention to the fact, that it clearly should not be in schedule D; it should be in a separate schedule. I do not know how we can amend it very well; but on a strict interpretation of that agreement now, all that Newfoundland could send into the West Indian Islands would be West Indian Island products which they do not produce.

Mr. FOSTER: They could send them into this country.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax): Yes, send into this country articles which are mentioned in schedule D, and which Newfoundland does not produce. It is an error, and it might be worth while considering, although it does not affect Canada.