

Sir THOMAS WHITE: No, I think it would be improper to say that the French Government has denounced the Treaty. The French Government desired to put themselves in the position that they could, for their own purposes in the rearrangement of their fiscal system, terminate the Treaty if they so desired on shorter notice than one year. The result is they served notice—I am speaking from memory—that they would have the right to denounce the Treaty on two months' notice. So that after September 1st the position is that the French Government may declare the Treaty at an end on two months' notice. My own view is that what they have done amounts virtually to a denunciation of the Treaty, but the Dominion Government has left the matter to the French Government. We have not raised any question as to what they have done, and we are hopeful that a satisfactory arrangement will be made.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I sincerely hope the Treaty will continue in effect. If not, I hope the Government will take proper measures to obtain a new treaty—possibly a more favourable one. I was very much struck yesterday on reading some statistics published in the latest issue of French-America to see the increase of trade between France and Canada during the period of the war. Indeed, before the war there was a marked increase, due to the Treaty, but since the war, and especially during the last two years, our exports have reached enormous figures. Of course, the war period now being over, we cannot expect to maintain those figures. But still we have opened so many new channels of business with that thrifty and industrious nation that we should be able to maintain part of our export trade with it. I am therefore pleased to hear my hon. friend say that the Treaty has not been formally denounced and that it may continue after the month of September. If it does not I urge my hon. friend to get in touch with the French authorities with a view to obtaining a better treaty.

Mr. McMASTER: I wish to direct the attention of the minister to what seems to be a mistake in section 4. The minister takes the duty of 7½ per cent off item 90; that item is bananas, and the 7½ per cent was never imposed upon bananas. In the explanatory schedule appended to the Customs Tariff War Revenue Act, 1915, there is a list of articles exempt from the customs war tax of 5 per cent ad valorem, preferential, or 7½ per cent ad valorem, intermediate and gen-

eral, provided for in that Act. Item 90a includes bananas, so that you cannot take off a duty which you never imposed.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I am informed by the Commissioner of Taxation that 90a covers wild edible berries. Item 90 in the tariff covers more than bananas; it covers a number of other things from which we are now taking off the 7½ per cent. If the provision is left as it is bananas will not be changed, but the 7½ per cent will come off these other items—mangoes, blueberries, strawberries, wild raspberries, and so on.

Mr. McMASTER: Then the clause is very imperfectly drafted, because it refers to "goods enumerated in the following tariff items." "Goods" means all the goods enumerated in the item; therefore there would appear to be a little sloppiness in the drafting of this section. The same may be said of other items. For instance, item 120 has reference to anchovies, sardines, sprats and other fish, whereas some of these fish did not have the 7½ per cent duty placed upon them. I recommend a checking over of this paragraph (v) so that these mistakes may be corrected.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I am informed by the Commissioner of Taxation that the course which he has followed is precisely that which has been followed in the past. Item 90 covers a number of articles on which the duty of 7½ per cent has not been imposed; if we say that 90 is to come within the exemption, the effect will be that all the goods mentioned in that item shall be exempt. To do it in any other way would, I think, lead to confusion. These items have been checked and rechecked, though what my hon. friend said with regard to bananas having been on the free list is quite right.

Mr. McMASTER: The member for Queen's, P.E.I. (Mr. J. E. Sinclair) has suggested a change which would make the thing clear. If you say that the goods enumerated in the following tariff items in schedule A upon which the tax levied by such and such an Act has been imposed, then you will avoid the somewhat absurd procedure of taking the duty off articles on which duties have never been placed.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I read in a reliable Toronto paper the other day that Canadian strawberries were sold in Buffalo at 20 cents a box and in Toronto at 40 cents a box. Can my hon. friend explain that?

Mr. MAHARG: If a revision of the French Treaty is to be made, and a revi-