

your honourable body the importance of the duty now being imposed upon green vegetables coming into Winnipeg from the United States.

We therefore petition that this duty be left as at present and sincerely hope your government will not remove the same as asked for by the wholesalers and jobbers in the session of 1909, which would benefit only themselves and neither the producers nor the consumers of Manitoba.

And it would only be the means of depriving our gardeners of a very large portion of their earnings and in fact many of them would have to go out of business.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

In view of the fact that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), promised across the floor of the House last year, to give these men an opportunity of presenting their views, and at least to make an investigation, I think it is absolutely unfair, by the proposition brought down, to deprive these men of the protection they enjoyed under the old tariff. I beg to call the attention of the government to another resolution passed in the city of Winnipeg. This was passed by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, two-thirds of the members of which are Liberals:

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange, by a vote of 54 to 15, adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, that it is the opinion of the members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange that the proposed measure of reciprocity trade between Canada and the United States of America now under consideration at Ottawa and Washington, if ratified, will not be in the best interests of Canada.

RECIPROCAL TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES—POSITION OF SOME OTHER COUNTRIES.

Mr. REID (Grenville). I brought a question up here a short time ago, and asked the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), if he would give me a definite answer. The hon. gentleman replied that the information asked for by my question, had been covered by the answer to a question asked by the hon. member for North Ontario (Mr. Sharpe), on February 16. The question was with regard to this reciprocity treaty. The hon. member for North Ontario asked a question on February 16, as recorded at 3744 of the Unrevised 'Hansard':

1. What is the number and the names of the countries, if any, that will be entitled to have their natural products and manufactured articles come into Canada under the same terms as the United States under the proposed reciprocity agreement?

Now, I am not finding fault with the answer that the Minister of Finance gave to the hon. member for North Ontario. That answer, perhaps, was satisfactory to that hon. gentleman. That answer reads as follows:

Mr. BRADBURY.

1. France is a favoured nation country to a limited extent, that is to say, as respects the lists of articles specified in schedules B and C to the French treaty. Twelve countries: Argentine Republic, Austria-Hungary, Bolivia, Colombia, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela—are accorded most favoured nation treatment generally.

That does not answer the question definitely. It also states:

These are consequently enjoying the benefits of the French treaty. As respects the dutiable schedules in the agreement with the United States, the concessions to be granted to the United States are largely the same as already have been granted to France and the favoured nation countries.

You will notice, Mr. Speaker, that the whole tendency of this answer is to mix the question up so that people will not understand it.

As respects a large part of the list, therefore, no additional advantage will be enjoyed by such countries.

That is not a fair, straight-out answer to this question.

There are, however, a few articles in the French schedules which in the agreement with the United States are made free or dutiable at lower rates.

There are, however, a few articles in the French schedules which in the agreement with the United States are made free or dutiable at lower rates. In these cases the advantages granted to the United States will extend also to France and the favoured nation countries. In the case of the few articles which are not to be found in the French treaty, the favoured nation countries will be entitled to receive concessions on the same terms as the United States, but France will not be so entitled.

In every sentence of this answer there is a tendency to mix up the whole question, so that the public may not understand it.

Although not arising from any agreement, in no case has any advantage been granted to any foreign country that did not at the same time extend to all parts of the British Empire. In the few cases in which the rates to be established are lower than those already enjoyed by British countries, the reductions will apply to such countries.

Now, I can understand why it was possible for the Finance Minister to mix up this question, because there is no doubt that in answering it he would have to bring in France, with whom we had a special treaty. But in order to get an answer as to the names of the countries that would enjoy the same conditions as the United States in bringing into Canada every article produced by the farmer outside the French treaty, in asking my question I mentioned the Argentine Republic, Austria-Hungary, Bolivia, Colombia, Den-