

country, we could receive in return the full conventional tariff, just as it is to-day enjoyed by other portions of the empire. But in order to do that we should be obliged to reduce our duty on German goods to the schedule of rates set forth in the French treaty; and whatever may be done in the future, for the present we have not thought it expedient to take that step. I think that is a correct statement of the situation.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It is quite satisfactory so far as it goes, but it does not clear up one matter I had in mind, and I am not at all sure that the other day I made my meaning quite apparent in that respect. What I desired to know above all was whether, in consideration for receiving the advantages of the German conventional tariff, the other dominions of the empire are bound to concede to the German empire any tariff concessions which such dominions might make to the United Kingdom?

Mr. FIELDING. No, I think not. At the time of the difficulty between Canada and Germany, Canada was the only portion of the empire which had granted a preference to Great Britain; consequently Canada was the only portion of the empire which was brought into antagonism with Germany. My hon. friend had the impression that immediately after the denunciation of the old treaty a new treaty was made, giving to the various portions of the empire, except Canada, all the privileges that the former enjoyed. So far as I can ascertain, there was no treaty, but in another way the same result was brought about by an exchange of correspondence. Privileges which had formerly been extended to the British empire were extended to the British empire except in the case of Canada, and the reason for that was that Canada was the only portion of the empire which at that time granted a preference to Great Britain; consequently Germany had no quarrel with the rest of the empire, she quarrelled with Canada, and the result we know. So I have no doubt that in consequence of the contest with Canada, in consequence of the contention which Canada set up, and successfully set up, I think it is correct to say that Germany no longer insists upon the right of receiving the same treatment as other portions of the British empire; consequently to-day the other portions of the British empire would be receiving the full conventional tariff of Germany. That is my impression.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Although granting tariff concessions to Great Britain which were not extended to Germany?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes, these tariff concessions which have been granted in more

Mr. FIELDING.

recent years. As I have pointed out, at the origin of the trouble Canada was the only country which granted such concessions, and it was several years afterwards before the concessions were granted to Great Britain by some other of the overseas dominions. In the meantime Canada had made a fight on that question, and I think it is not too much to say that the German government began to take a different view, and that to-day they do not insist as respects the other portions of the empire on that or which they contended a few years ago.

Mr. HENDERSON. While dealing with this matter I would like to ask the Finance Minister if there was any special reason why such important grains as peas and rye, rye especially, should not be included in the German conventional tariff.

Mr. FIELDING. I might have difficulty in giving a reason as to particular items. If we were dealing with a permanent treaty, a comprehensive treaty, it would be important that we should contend for every item. This only professes to be a provisional agreement. We could not expect to get the whole conventional tariff from Germany, because we are not prepared to give what others give. As to the merits of a particular item, I might have difficulty in answering my hon. friend. Those items which we have received we think are important. I have no doubt there may be others which some hon. gentleman might also think important.

Mr. HENDERSON. Especially rye.

Mr. FIELDING. I would not answer as respects a particular item.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I would like to ask the minister along those same lines, why dairy products are not included, also bacon and flour, and a number of other articles, in which farmers have a direct interest.

Mr. FIELDING. I would be pleased if hon. gentlemen desiring information on a particular point like that would be good enough to let their questions stand, and I will make inquiry. I do not pretend to give reasons why any particular item is not there. We could not obtain the whole earth, but we think we have obtained our share of it.

Mr. MONK. I would like to ask the Finance Minister if it is too late to make any representations in regard to the item of hay. I have received a large number of communications from extensive hay dealers in Montreal, and they have requested me to ask the government if it would not still be possible to have that item included. It seems to me that there is a possibility of a large trade with Germany in hay. I