

Mr. FIELDING. It would not have made any difference, anyhow. I cannot understand the application of the hon. member's question to the case before me.

Mr. J. D. REID. The hon. minister (Mr. Fielding) made a speech in which he said that it did not make any difference what view the United States took, the treaty had to go through.

Mr. FIELDING. Certainly, that is the view I took. And, if I am not mistaken, the hon. member for Grenville (Mr. J. D. Reid) helped to put it through.

Mr. J. D. REID. I did. But the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) is taking a different course now. He was asked if he would take the step which he has since taken, and he said he would not.

Mr. FIELDING. I dealt with that point early in my present remarks. I said that the suggestion had been offered that, before we approved of the French treaty, we should go to the United States, and practically get their consent to make the treaty.

Mr. NORTHROP. No, that was not the suggestion.

Mr. FIELDING. Yes, the suggestion was: Before you put this treaty through, find out how the United States will regard it. If that was not the suggestion, what was it?

Mr. NORTHROP. As the minister has asked the question, no doubt he desires an answer. The whole point was, not that the minister should go to the United States to ascertain their feeling in the matter, but that he should take the trouble to quietly read a statute already passed, and then the law of the land in the United States, in order that he might learn whether, under that law as it stood, he was doing something that might compel us, later, to go on our knees, and ask forgiveness for what we were doing. The hon. minister repudiated anything of the kind that he has done since.

Mr. FIELDING. The hon. member (Mr. Northrup) is not so ingenious as he thinks he is. If he consults the record, he will find that the suggestion was offered that we should not proceed to ratify the French treaty until by some method—I do not know by what method—we should find out what the United States would think of it. That is the position; if it did not mean that, it did not mean anything. And, whether I should go to the United States, or somebody else should go, the essence of the proposition was the same—that we should ascertain whether the United States would be offended by our making the treaty. We

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said that, with all due respect, we had to contend that it was none of their business what treaty we made, and that position we retain to-day.

Mr. J. D. REID. The minister was brave then, but he has capitulated since.

Mr. FIELDING. The hon. member (Mr. J. D. Reid) was brave in supporting the treaty then, and now he wants to have a nag at it.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. Perhaps I may be allowed a word. I voted against the French treaty. My recollection is that some member on this side—possibly myself—asked the hon. minister if he did not think the effect of passing the French treaty would be to bring upon us the maximum tariff of the United States. The minister replied that he did not think our passing the treaty would justify the United States in taking that course.

Mr. FIELDING. That is what I said then, and I say the same to-day. More than that, I tell my hon. friend (Mr. Middlebro) now that we have not given the United States the benefit of the French treaty, and we are getting the benefit of the United States minimum tariff.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Would the minister be good enough to say whether the objections that were raised by the United States government were, practically, altogether owing to the fact that the French treaty had been accepted by this government?

Mr. FIELDING. Largely. That was not the only point, but it was the main point. Undoubtedly, it was the fact that we had granted another country rates of duty which we were not willing to grant to the United States that made the essence of their objection.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Would the hon. gentleman give us any other point that was objected to outside of the French treaty?

Mr. FIELDING. I told the House at an early stage of my address that the wood question was the subject of some consideration. But it is only fair to say that, after discussion, the United States did not formally present that, and did not, in the end, complain of it.

I have said that it is possible that the United States might not have imposed upon Canada the maximum tariff. My opinion was to the contrary, and my information was received from the best sources in the United States, and is, at all events, as well founded as that of hon. members who hold the contrary. The effect upon these countries of a tariff war was apparent to all well-thinking men. There are men in the