

and the second sitting to commence at 2 o'clock; and that all Select Committees of the Senate be permitted to sit while the Senate is in session, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in rule 86.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 11 a.m.

## THE SENATE.

Wednesday, June 30, 1920.

### First Sitting.

The Senate met at 11 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### FRANCO-CANADIAN TRADE.

#### MOTION.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN moved:

Whereas the abrogation of the Franco-Canadian Commercial Treaty on the 19th of June instant will seriously affect Canada's export trade to France;

Whereas the said abrogation will further place France at a grave disadvantage with her competitors on the Canadian market;

Be it resolved that the Canadian Government be earnestly urged to forthwith enter into negotiations for the purpose of concluding a new Treaty or a temporary agreement with France of a nature to protect and if possible stimulate trade between the two countries.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, I have no apology but an explanation to give this House why this motion is presented so late. It is a case of necessity. The policy of the Government in this respect was not announced until the 26th of June instant. I was unable until yesterday to obtain from the different departments the information required; therefore it was, prior to this moment, impossible to put this matter before the House in an intelligent manner.

In these last fleeting hours of the session I would certainly not inflict on this House a subject of a rather dry nature, composed practically of quotations and figures, if I did not consider it of paramount importance to the country; but I do. I wish I had the natural ability that many members of this House possess, of putting a business proposition in concise, crisp and clear language.

Let me preface what I have to say by stating that this motion has been approved by very important bodies of men in this country. I will quote a resolution recently adopted by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at their last annual meeting:

Whereas, the Franco-Canadian Customs Tariff Convention will terminate about June 19, 1920, and

Whereas, it is highly desirable that the friendly trade relations between France and Canada should be improved by a new Customs Convention whereby direct shipping may be promoted and French markets opened which, owing to the high general Customs duties of France would otherwise remain closed against numerous Canadian products, both agricultural and manufacturing, and on the other hand desirable markets may be opened in Canada for various French products not made or produced in Canada.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in annual meeting assembled in Vancouver on June 9, 1920, earnestly petition the Dominion Government to negotiate a new Franco-Canadian Customs Tariff Convention, as soon as conditions become opportune.

A similar resolution was adopted by France-Amerique, a very important organization composed of men endeavouring to strengthen the trade and intellectual relations existing between Canada and France. This association comprises many of the heads of our big railroads, of our banks, of our industries—men who hold very high positions in every walk of life. The resolution adopted by this association is as follows:

Extract from the minutes of a meeting of France-Amerique, held in the city of Montreal on the 17th day of May, 1920.

Whereas the repeal of the commercial treaty between Canada and France will operate from the 19th day of June next (1920), and whereas the negotiation of a new treaty will no doubt entail protracted discussions, extending over a long period;

Whereas it is of vital importance that Canadian exportations to France, so highly developed during the war and to a substantial extent maintained since should not be jeopardized by such revocation, but should be protected and, as far as possible, helped by a temporary agreement between the two nations;

Wherefore it is unanimously resolved;

That the Government of Canada be earnestly requested forthwith to take such steps as may lead to the negotiations of such a temporary agreement prior to the 19th day of June, 1920.

Resolutions to the same effect have also been adopted by the Montreal Board of Trade and by the two Chambers of Commerce of Montreal.

These resolutions, honourable gentlemen, fortify the proposition I wish to lay before you. What is the position of Canada now? We were very unfortunate in the war in that we lost the flower of our manhood and burdened our country with a very heavy debt. But we have been fortunate in this, that our trade has been extremely prosperous, and that the unfavourable balance of trade, which had increased so alarmingly from 1910 to 1914 to the extent of \$1,000,000,-