

and also by the legislatures of the West Indies, the terms of this statute can be amended thereafter by Order in Council? That is the point, and it is a very dubious one.

Mr. FOSTER: To my mind it is as clear as possible. I am inclined to think that my right hon. friend does not exercise his usual perspicacity of judgment in this case or he would see that when this bill goes into effect, and goods begin to come into this country by the machinery of the customs legislation of the country, these Orders in Council being germane and necessary parts of the customs legislation have full force in respect of such goods. They exist, the system is in operation. You do not have to call it into operation for this particular purpose, when this legislation is passed. It is there, and this legislation comes under it and goods go through the channels already provided, channels which have been well used for the last 30 or 40 years, ever since, in fact, we have had the transit bonding system.

Mr. EMMERSON: I do not exactly understand this matter. This legislation, I presume, is brought before this Parliament with the view of carrying into effect the terms of the agreement entered into by the Government of Canada with the several colonies. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce stated last night that the people of the West Indies, whom he did not think were so affluent as the people of Canada, had pinched themselves in order to secure from the Government of Canada certain privileges. They pinched themselves to secure the right to export to Canada all the goods enumerated in schedule B:

Being the produce or manufacture of any of the colonies parties thereto, when such goods are imported direct from any British country into Canada or taken out of warehouse for consumption therein if imported as aforesaid, duties of customs—

At the rate of four-fifths.

And so forth. For that right they pinched themselves by making certain concessions upon their part. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce by his legislation is, in my judgment, seeking to further pinch them in limiting and restricting the rights given to them under this second paragraph of the agreement.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Changing the agreement.

Mr. EMMERSON: Changing the agreement, limiting and restricting it to importations direct. Now, I can quite understand an extension of the law of the customs with respect to the preference given under the Fielding tariff. It must be understood that that preference was given voluntarily, not as the result of an agreement

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or of an arrangement, by Canada to Great Britain, and to the other colonies. It permitted them to export into this country certain goods with certain privileges and preferences, and in order to make them fully understood there were certain enactments at that time governing the methods of such importations under the provisions of that tariff Act. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce has read the law which thus applies, but he goes further and now seeks to say that the word 'imported' in the second paragraph of the agreement means imported subject to the conditions of that former Tariff Act which applies to the preference granted to Great Britain and to her colonies. I do not understand the word 'imported' to have any such restricted meaning. I hold that those colonies have the right to import into this country with those preferences attached, regardless of whether they come directly or indirectly. Therefore, when my hon. friend introduces these provisions into the third paragraph of his Bill limiting such importations to direct importations, he is travelling beyond the agreement which he solemnly entered into. I submit, Mr. Chairman, that if this Parliament puts in these restrictions, we are breaking faith with those colonies; we are travelling beyond our right and our privilege. We have complained of the manner in which the United States have treated agreements solemnly entered into. They have been charged as a nation with breaking faith with all other countries, and yet to-day in Canada we propose to treat the people of the West Indies in the very same way. I know my hon. friend is in a very humiliating position with respect to this matter. He neglected apparently to secure those limitations when he entered into this agreement, and now he comes before this Parliament and by legislation seeks to withdraw from the people of the West Indies privileges which are theirs under the agreement into which he entered. It is a humiliating position. I think it would be better for my hon. friend to say this: We will submit to the law, we will ratify the agreement, and that is all that this Bill is called upon to do. My hon. friend has attended to his part of the duty. He has secured the concurrence of the delegates from the West Indies to a certain trade arrangement. He, on his part, offered to do certain things for them and they on their part, undertook to do certain things in order to secure from him these concessions. They gave us these concessions in their markets in consideration of our offering to give them certain rights. Yet, after all that has been done, my hon. friend comes down to Parliament and asks the support of Parliament for his proposal to incorporate a provision in this Bill which is not contained in the treaty arrangement to which he was a party on