

senators who actually are on the committee. If it is agreeable, instead of moving that the resolutions be adopted now, I will move that they be referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: When I rose I had intended to move that the resolutions be referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, but I forgot to do so. I think the proper procedure is to deal with this matter before that committee. As stated by the honourable senator from Prince (Hon. Mr. MacArthur), what this House will want to know, as exactly as possible, is what we are giving to each of these nations and what they are giving to us. What privileges are we granting to Chili, Argentina and Brazil? On the other hand, what advantages do we get from them? That is the meat of the question. It should not take very long to get that information in the Banking and Commerce Committee.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: I thank the right honourable gentleman for the suggestion he has made. May I point out that the treaties themselves probably contain very little; usually they have only three or four clauses. We cannot judge the merits of these trade agreements unless we have a detailed list of imports and exports. By these trade agreements we are to give to Chile, Brazil and the Argentine Republic the best possible tariff treatment apart from what is accorded to Great Britain. Is it dangerous for us to do that? Since the Minister of Trade and Commerce recommends approval of these trade agreements, I assume there is no danger in our taking this course. But the Argentine produces a tremendous quantity of beef.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: And wheat.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Yes. Their beef is forwarded to Great Britain in competition with ours. I know how cheap cattle are in the Argentine, for I have been there. They are brought to Buenos Aires practically on the hoof, and slaughtered, and the beef is sent directly to Great Britain in refrigeration boats. There its high quality commands a substantial price. The Argentine also exports wheat to Great Britain. I assume the Minister has given very serious consideration to those two items. Chile exports tobacco—another commodity which we produce. Therefore we have to protect our farmers with respect to cattle, wheat and tobacco. There may be other items as to which we must be very prudent, in giving substantial advantages in our market to exporting countries. I do not know how long these trade agreements are to

run, or what notice is required for their termination, whether six months, a year or two years. We should also bear in mind the Atlantic Charter, sponsored by Great Britain and the United States, which clearly intimates that after the war there must be a much freer circulation of commodities throughout the world, the intent, it seems to me, being to get rid of tariffs as far as possible.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I do not know whether that policy is possible so far as Canada is concerned.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Why not?

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I do not know what would happen if we abolished our tariffs altogether. It might lead to economic disaster. But at any rate it is important that we should have full information on these points. So when the Minister of Trade and Commerce or someone from his department appears before our committee, I should like him to produce a detailed list of all exports from those countries.

Right Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: From those countries?

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Yes; their exportation. Their importation is not important. We have sold them all we can.

Hon. Mrs. WILSON: The Minister's speech contains very full details.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I have not read the Minister's speech. Neither have I heard the right honourable leader of the House mention in detail the exports from those countries.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Here are two paragraphs.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: It should be explained, for instance, how it is that beef from the Argentine will not be in competition with our own; and there may be other items in the same classification.

Hon. Mr. COTE: Before the resolution is submitted to the committee, may I say now what I had intended to say before the motion was made? I have a feeling that no member of this House would refuse his willing and ready assent to the resolution, for the treaties which have been signed are, I think, the expression of a popular desire in this country that Canada should by reciprocal arrangements increase its trade both ways with the South American republics. Whether we are giving more than we are receiving under the treaties I do not know, but I am not assuming that we are.