

many questions of very considerable practical importance, with some of which I trust to be able to deal. Before doing so I shall take the opportunity of replying to an inquiry made by my hon. friend or his distinguished predecessor with respect to the French treaty recently under negotiation at Paris. As I am advised, the chief alteration that has been made in it is this: Article one provides that the cattle items in schedule A be modified by excluding cattle in fat condition for slaughter. Article 2 provides that the ruling of the French experts as to fat cattle shall be final, subject, however, to the right of the Canadian government to ask for revision of any regulations that they may find objectionable. So far as the treaty is concerned, I believe that that is almost the entire difference that is likely to be made; but I would take occasion to point out to my hon. friend that these cable communications, which are all we have to depend upon at present, are necessarily somewhat brief and incomplete and that I do not desire to be understood as saying this is absolutely final. I am giving him the best information that I possess at the moment.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.—Can my right hon. friend say whether the Minister of Finance, who is in France, I understand, has authority to accept the new proposals made by the French government supplementary to the treaty?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—I cannot say whether he has authority as to all matters. I am not advised as to whether everything the French government has asked for has been conceded or not. I am simply giving the hon. gentleman information of the major, and, I believe, the only important change that is likely to be made in the treaty.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.—Surely the Finance Minister would not suggest or accept a proposition of that kind except with the consent of the government?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.—He certainly would not accept any important proposition. There may be some small matters of detail as to which reasonable discretion might be given.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

Now, to come to matters to which the hon. gentleman has devoted a great deal of attention, and in respect to which I propose also to speak, I might remark to him in the first place that he has, I think without intending it, a little exaggerated the probable loss of revenue in the current year. This my hon. friend estimated at about \$15,000,000, basing his calculation, naturally enough, on the last 'Gazette' returns down to the 1st of January. I am glad to be able to say to my hon. friend, that while it is quite true the figures as he gave them are correct down to the 1st of January, he will do well in making his calculations for the remaining three months to bear in mind that the loss of revenue during the first nine months of this year was, from very obvious causes and reasons, very much larger in proportion than it is likely to be in the remaining three months, and I will give him the latest information in my possession as to the total loss of revenue. On the 20th January—only seven days ago—the total loss of revenue amounted to \$12,038,000, and as it is probable that the months of February and March will not show any appreciable decline, and as it is even possible that they may show a slight increase over the months of February and March, 1908, I think my hon. friend may rely upon it that the figure now attained is not likely to be materially exceeded, which, no doubt, will be very satisfactory to him. I may also observe that although it is quite true that there has been a great shrinking in our revenue and in our imports, it is equally true that on the whole, and as compared with other nations, Canada is able to make a very respectable showing. First of all, and it is a point which I have no doubt hon. gentlemen will thoroughly appreciate, being as they are, many of them, men who are conversant with large affairs—first of all although the storm struck us as well as the United States with very considerable severity, we can say to our credit that Canadian financial institutions displayed a most remarkable stability. Over the United States, as every hon. gentleman knows, there was something like a complete suspension of specie payments. Nothing of the sort was thought of, dreamed of or expected in Canada, and it reflects no small