

When he speaks about freedom, about tying the hands of parliament, is he forgetful of the fact that the government he supported negotiated and brought into effect the West Indies treaty for twelve long years, during which time no notice could be given to terminate? Is he aware of the fact that the leader he talks of incessantly was, in April, 1911, a party to a treaty with Japan for twelve years? Is he aware that the hands of parliament were tied then? But the opportunity to deprecate the efforts of those who have been opposed to him with respect to a great empire treaty did not stand in the way of his forgetting all about the West Indies or Japan or any other country. All he was concerned about was to talk about this glorious freedom that has served him so well in times gone by, when he cried: "Freedom, freedom, freedom!" and called to high heaven for support in the maintenance of the freedom of the country—for the one single purpose of getting votes.

So it is that to-night, in respect to agreements that are not before the house and therefore cannot be discussed, but that were discussed in Huron without being before the electorate, we have the spectacle of my right hon. friend endeavouring to show in one breath that he is opposed to them, but lest there be any offence given to the sentiments of some of his supporters and friends he says: "of course I am with them if they are all right, if they do not interfere with the glorious freedom that is so important." We have that exhibition of his consistency, to which he has referred so glowingly this afternoon—this opposition to treaties that are for longer periods than overnight. This endeavour to arrange the fiscal policies of the dominion on a stable basis so that the greatest benefit may accrue to every part of it for a period of five years is to be attacked by him, forgetful, as I say he is, of the achievements of the past when a period of twelve years was not considered too long for a treaty whether with a British colony or with a foreign power.

Then he referred to the South Huron by-election. Well, two hundred South Hurons would not place the right hon. gentleman in power.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Try it.

Mr. BENNETT: The Dutch still hold Holland. A few months ago we reduced the majority in Maisonneuve by four thousand.

Mr. DUFF: The right hon. member is in dutch.

Mr. BENNETT: In South Huron seven hundred votes changed sides for reasons that are not difficult to ascertain. And when the right hon. gentleman referred to Kipling's lesson, let me remind him of this: the British won the war. So we remember the lesson and win the next election. There will be no difficulty about that.

An hon. MEMBER: Do not try it in too big a hurry.

Mr. BENNETT: Let the hon. member go and ask Manitoba about the university and keep quiet.

An hon. MEMBER: Ask Regina who won the last election.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, it was not the hon. gentleman.

Now, having directed attention to the trade agreements for the purpose of making the observations I have made, I do not propose to dwell upon those agreements longer because they are not now before the house for consideration. But this I will say, that the widest possible opportunity will be afforded to every hon. member in this chamber to study those agreements, and their purport has been known for weeks because the text was published in the papers with the exception of the tariff schedules. When it is asked seriously in this chamber why we adopted the course we did, I need hardly remind any hon. member who has been here for a single session of parliament that, under our rules and procedure, ways and means resolutions become effective on the day on which they are moved, and it would be impossible, if those tariff changes were published, to prevent forestalling or to prevent action being taken by dealers that would be inimical to the revenues and to the state. While in some countries those rules do not prevail, in Canada that has been the universal rule.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What has that to do with approving the agreements in advance?

Mr. BENNETT: I am not talking about that. The right hon. gentleman forgets his arguments. I do not wonder at that. He argued this afternoon that the proper course would have been to give publicity to the agreements.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I make clear what I said in that regard? What I was saying was that I could see no reason why the schedules should not be given pub-