Imperial Conference—Trade Agreements

Mr. GOTT: In bacon alone there was a decline of \$20,000,000.

Mr. POULIOT: Let the hon. gentleman discuss that with Mr. Ferguson, and while he is in England we will have peace in the House of Commons. If the move that has been made by the government with regard to guaranteeing wheat is a good move, it is just as good for the hog industry. If it is necessary for the wheat industry it is just as necessary for the hog industry and for agriculture as a whole. For this reason I ask the Prime Minister whether he is not ready to consider at once guaranteeing the hog industry in order to provide some actual relief to the farmer in Canada the same as is done for the wheat business.

Article agreed to.

On article 7:

1156

His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom will invite parliament to pass legislation which will secure for a period of ten years from the date hereof to tobacco, consigned from any part of the British Empire and grown, produced or manufactured in Canada, the existing margin of preference over foreign tobacco, so long, however, as the duty on foreign unmanufactured tobacco does not fall below 2/0¹/₂d. per pound, in which event the margin of preference shall be equal to the full duty.

Mr. GOTT: I have no desire to hold up the debate for one moment, but I should be remiss in my duty as a representative of a tobacco district if I did not point out one dangerous aspect of this agreement. I hope that my recommendation in this regard will be accepted. Article 7 reads:

His Majesty's government in the United Kingdom will invite parliament to pass legislation which will secure for a period of ten years from the date hereof to tobacco, consigned from any part of the British Empire and grown, produced or manufactured in Canada, the existing margin of preference over foreign tobacco, so long, however, as the duty on foreign unmanufactured tobacco does not fall below $2/0\frac{1}{2}d$. per pound, in which event the margin of preference shall be equal to the full duty.

The tobacco growers of Canada certainly appreciate the fact that through legislation we are going to have 49 cents per pound preference on all tobacco grown in Canada, but I would draw attention to these words: "grown, produced or manufactured in Canada."

I would point out the possibility of United States flue-cured tobacco being brought into Canada and manufactured in this country for export, in connection with which there is a rebate of 99 per cent. That would permit the [Mr. Pouliot.] Canadian manufacturer to import American flue-cured tobacco on which he would pay the duty, and he would then enjoy a refund of 99 per cent of the duty if the tobacco were manufactured for export purposes. I hope the government will close up that gap by adopting these words: "grown, produced or manufactured in Canada from Canadian tobacco." That is all I want changed.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Mr. Chairman, I note, at page 128 of Hansard, English version, October 12, that the right hon. Prime Minister stated that the preference would greatly benefit those who grow the variety of tobacco known as Bright, in the district of Norfolk. I should also like to inquire whether the farmers who grew the varieties known as "Petit Quesnel, Petit rouge" and "Parfum d'Italie"-the latter being really a Canadian tobacco, notwithstanding its foreign name-will equally benefit by this preference, or whether it is but a sham. That is of great interest to farmers. It is not only a question as to whether preference will be really profitable to farmers of the district of Norfolk who grow the variety of Bright tobacco, but it is equally one of protecting the farmers who grow the "Parfum d'Italie, Petit rouge" and "Petit Quesnel" and all the other good varieties.

Mr. GOTT: Speak in English.

Mr. POULIOT: I apologize to the hon. member if I spoke a language that he does not understand. However, in order to be fair I will continue in English. I hope the government will be as fair to him as I am.

Mr. GOTT: I am probably the only member in the house who follows the hon. gentleman's speeches.

Mr. POULIOT: I thank the hon. gentleman for that remark and for his benefit I will continue to speak in English.

Mr. GOTT (Translation): Many thanks.

Mr. POULIOT: My hon. friend is certainly a genial colleague and he speaks very good French. Now, Mr. Chairman, there is something astounding in connection with the tobacco situation. I want to quote the words of the Prime Minister in his speech delivered on October 12. It is the credo of Toryism. It is an explanation by one who did not sleep on the night the agreement was signed. He