

measure shall extend to the United Kingdom and to the other colonies, so that there is a very wide question involved in this Bill. Let me direct your attention to the fact that section 6 of this Bill, schedule D, says that the Bahamas, Bermuda, British Honduras, Grenada, Jamaica, and Newfoundland are all to have the advantages and concessions provided under this agreement for a period of three years. Let me suggest a contingency which seems a proper subject of discussion. I noticed in the press this morning that the Bahamas and Bermuda are proposing to negotiate a reciprocity agreement with the United States. I would like to know from the hon. minister whether or not the effect of such an arrangement, if made, would be to create new conditions with respect to Canada. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce has, I am sure, advised upon the subject. No doubt he has considered it, and it seems very important that the House and the country should know just what the status of Canada would be if, as a result of that agreement, Bermuda and the Bahamas made a reciprocity treaty with the United States, while they have a reciprocal arrangement with us under this Bill. Let me point out that that is information which the House should have and should consider in discussing the second reading of this Bill. It is a very important matter. The hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce in moving the second reading of the Bill gave us some very interesting details, but with regard to the principle involved in the measure, his information was somewhat crude. For example, where do we stand as regards the United Kingdom in reference to this Bill? Did my hon. friend tell Bonar Law that he could make his statement at Ashton-under-Lynne, and was that statement of the English Unionist leader made as the result of conference with the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce? This country has a right to know whether its chief representative in the making of this treaty, when he goes beyond the limits of Canada, should undertake to make arrangements with the Mother Country and its public men who happen not to be in the Government for the time being, as to what Canada's attitude is going to be with regard to trade questions. The people of the United Kingdom and of the British Empire were interested a short time ago in a sudden volte face by the leader of the Unionists with regard to this question, and we know that the Minister of Trade and Commerce had been over there. He has ambitions, and I do not think they are unworthy ambitions, to go to Australia and conclude a trade arrangement with that country, and let me ask him if he has made any preliminary arrangement with the Mother

Country in regard to that, and if he can tell us what is the attitude of the British Chancellor of the Exchequer on that question?

Mr. FOSTER : I am afraid I cannot.

Mr. MACDONALD : Of course, the hon. gentleman did not confer with Lloyd-George the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, but perhaps he can tell us what Bonar Law has to say about such matters. Canada would like to know, England would like to know, this House would like to know these things when he comes before it with an agreement which affects our tariff relations with Great Britain and with the West Indies, and which he and his friends will go up and down the country congratulating themselves upon as being the first step in a scheme of Imperial preferential trade. This House also has the right to know what the effect on Canada would be of a reciprocal trade arrangement made between such important British possessions as the Bermudas and the Bahamas and the United States. Are there any restrictions in this treaty which would prevent the islands included in it making an arrangement with any other country which might be our competitor, and which would result in letting goods into Canada which would compete with our products. I think the Minister of Trade and Commerce should take us into his confidence and tell us what he has arranged with the preferential tariff people in the Old Country and what he purposes doing.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

House in Committee on the Bill (Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair).

On section 1—short title:

Mr. MACDONALD : It is due to the House that the Minister of Trade and Commerce should now give us explanation of the matters I have placed before him.

Mr. FOSTER : I purpose taking up these several points on the sections as we come to them.

Mr. MACDONALD : What about the larger question?

Mr. FOSTER : We will get it wedged in somewhere before we finish. In reference to the momentous questions solemnly put to me by my hon. friend, I would like to have the advantage of the dinner hour for cogitation.

On Section 3—Duties on goods in schedule B.

Mr. PUGSLEY : Most of these articles are not produced in Canada, and why is the preference stipulated for here only one-fifth or twenty per cent, when the