

jourment of the debate, there will be no objection.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York). I listened with a great deal of interest to the deliverance of the hon. the Finance Minister this afternoon, and propose to discuss it just a few moments. But, in the first place, I think the most important announcement made was that of the right hon. the First Minister that the Canadian government have agreed to exchange ratifications with regard to the International Waterways Commission. That is a very important measure, with far reaching consequences, involving in the highest degree very important interests to this country, and I hope that the treaty will have the effect of settling these international difficulties, and that the result will be beneficial to both countries. Any one who has followed the discussions in the United States recently must have remarked that Senator Root, who was Secretary of State in the late government, said that tariff complications were to be avoided above all things, because they might prevent the exchange of ratifications with regard to the waterways treaty. So that what we have had in this House to-day is the announcement of the settlement of two very important questions. One is the ratification of a treaty which will have the result of settling questions that arise with regard to waterways, and the other is the announcement of the Minister of Finance, that we have succeeded in avoiding a tariff war. That is a satisfactory, but only temporary settlement of the situation. It is something like the feat of the King of France who marched up the hill with ten thousand men, and then marched them down again. However, there has been some kind of a settlement, and a better approach between the two nations has been reached, and to that extent I am glad to give the government credit for what they have done in the matter. The net result to my mind is this, that at last the great United States have been compelled to recognize that Canada is a free and independent nation on this great North American continent, and that we own, as I think, the better half of it. They have had to recognize also this fact that Canada is not only a free and independent nation, but that we are free to make our own tariff to suit ourselves, and to maintain our commercial autonomy in every sense of the term. The United States have been forced to recognize that, and it has taken a long while to bring that about. They have also been forced to recognize the right of Canada, not only to

make her own tariff for the benefit of her own people, and industries, but to give a preference to the mother country, and the associated states of the empire, and they also have been compelled to recognize our right to make reciprocal treaties with other nations throughout the world. There is also the recognition of the fact that Canada has the right to impose export duties. Commercial independence, tariff independence, is largely brought about by export duties, and the resources which are contained in a protective tariff. It was a question of dispute in this country that a tariff could not be used to advance a country. We have demonstrated that it can. Sir John Macdonald, and those who were with him in the early days, and who inaugurated the National Policy, have been vindicated, and the position they took has been amply demonstrated, that a tariff, that bounties and export duties and that all the resources which are in the quiver of the protectionist, are available, and are necessary for the working out of the tariff independence of any nation. And that policy which was begun here a good many years ago with some trepidation, and for which failure was predicted, is to-day vindicated, and is to-day the greatest factor in building up this Canadian nation. Germany has had to recognize, the United States have had to recognize, that Canada is a vast country with a nationality, a fertility, and resources that must command the respect of all the nations of the world.

There is also in this situation a great lesson to the mother country. Our mother country, for some reason or other, and the public men of that country, for a great many years, have been led away by the doctrine that free trade was the best trade for England with other nations. The inefficacy of that doctrine has been proved now, and in no case has it been proved so pointedly as in this that Canada, by reason of her tariff position, can command just treatment from the United States which a country that has no tariff or no arrows in her quiver cannot command. If there be one searching thought in the minds of Englishmen to-day, it is that they have made the mistake of their life in thinking that free trade could enable them to get fair treatment from other nations. There is a great party growing up in England to-day which sees that a protective tariff, and even export duties are the only means by which they can compel other nations to treat England in a fairer way. So that the net profit to-day for the Canadian people is that the National Policy, which was started years ago, has vindicated itself, has been accepted by the people of this country, including hon. gentlemen opposite, and is capable of being used to obtain for us rights which we otherwise could not gain. But we must not be led away by