

be able to do a direct trade with France in that article, and increase it to a considerable extent. In lumber, including finished lumber for the construction of buildings, we sold to France \$487,620. The honourable gentleman from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Beaubien) has explained the great need of this lumber for the rebuilding of Northern France, and it is an article which could be sold in large quantities for a number of years. Of asbestos, which is a Canadian article, we sold to France \$226,705 worth, and that should be increased. There are very many articles which we have sold to France, and I have only mentioned the principal ones. I believe that those channels of trade, and those relations which have been created and developed, should not be broken; and the responsibility falls upon the Minister of Trade and Commerce to do what is needful to prevent an absolute dislocation of that trade. I am convinced that if the Minister of Trade and Commerce will offer our intermediate tariff for the minimum tariff of France, we will get a solution of this matter immediately, because France sees the importance of preventing any dislocation of trade relations. We should not ask the intermediate tariff of France, but its minimum tariff, and it would be a splendid thing if we could get that minimum tariff against our intermediate tariff as a provisional matter until a definite treaty is signed.

Hon. N. A. BELCOURT: I had intended saying something and submitting some figures on this subject, but as the time is very near when the House must adjourn I shall refrain from doing so. I hope that the Government of the day will take such steps as will not leave the commercial relations between France and this country in the position they occupy to-day owing to the suspension of the Treaty on the 19th of June last. That position is worse to-day than that between this country and a number of countries with which we have little or no relations, and which yet get an advantage. Of all the nations with which we trade, France is the one under the greatest disability.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: And shut out of our trade.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: As my honourable friend says, shut out of our trade. It is inconceivable to me that that country, for reasons that are so apparent, should be placed in the position of saying, "You treat me worse than you treat anybody else." It is absolutely inconceivable to me

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

that that condition could continue any longer, and I am sure this Government will see the absolute necessity of remedying it at once.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until 2.30 p.m. this day.

Second Sitting.

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

MINISTERIAL SALARIES AND SESSIONAL INDEMNITY BILL.

FIRST READING.

Bill 219, an Act to amend the Salaries Act and the Senate and House of Commons Act.—Hon. Sir James Lougheed.

SECOND READING.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Bill was read the second time.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE AND REPORTED.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill. Hon. Mr. Gordon in the Chair.

On section 1—salaries of Ministers increased:

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen, this Bill is known as the Increased Indemnity Bill. It seems to have met with a measure of approval in another place, which would discourage any adverse comments being made upon it in this House. Under these circumstances I do not propose to criticize the action of the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Honourable gentlemen, I do not think it is necessary to criticize the action of the House of Commons; but at the same time I think that in going through this Bill we ought to discuss the terms of the Bill so as to know how they will apply. There are certain fines and regulations that may not be quite clear, and I think we should thoroughly understand the Bill before we part with it.

Section 1 was agreed to.

On section 2—First Minister, etc.:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Would my honourable friend explain just exactly what is the meaning of this clause?