

goods that we import, as a means of helping us to pay our way. We should deal with Great Britain as a member of our own family. When one does business with one's own brother one does not discard all business principles. Preferential treatment is to be expected, but, I repeat, we should not give free access to our markets. There are in the preferential tariff a number of items which we do not import in any considerable quantity, and fortunately there will be practically no loss accruing from the granting of preference in respect to them.

I apologize to honourable members for having spoken longer than I intended. Perhaps because of my position I am warranted in making somewhat extended remarks, as is my honourable friend who introduced this Bill (Hon. Mr. Dandurand). He represents the Government in this House, and to some extent I represent the Opposition. For that reason I feel at liberty to make more extended observations than I otherwise would.

On the whole, I am glad that an election is in sight. It will not affect those who are members of this House, although, I suppose, before the campaign ends there will be a number of new senators appointed. I think there are six vacancies at present?

Hon. Mr. BELAND: Yes, six, I think.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: The filling of those vacancies will make a noticeable difference in this House. Again I apologize for my somewhat extended remarks. My excuse is that I have been provoked into doing so by the novelty of the budget, and by the astounding changes between the present and the former opinions on questions of tariff held by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Railways.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I shall not discuss the remarks of my honourable friend concerning the total expenditure authorized in this Bill. He has spoken of the supplementary estimates. In this respect I may say that the total of the first supplementaries is less than the total of last year, which was not a pre-election year, and that a large part of the second supplementaries is composed of items based on reports from committees concerning increased expenditure for soldiers and for pensions to the widows and orphans of soldiers. I do not suppose my honourable friend criticizes that part of the expenditure. It was passed unanimously, and only after serious consideration, in both Houses.

My honourable friend has referred to the economic situation and the policy of the Government as proclaimed in the budget. I may

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tell him that one of the primary necessities of the Dominion of Canada is markets for our natural and industrial products. We know that not so very long ago an effort was made to facilitate the exchange of natural products between this country and the United States. We know also of the decision of the electors of this country to reject the reciprocity proposals of 1911. That forced the Government to look to other markets. Since then our exports have increased to a considerable degree, and this is due largely, I believe, to the efforts of the present Government in seeking out and opening new markets.

My honourable friend, by implication, criticized the treaty with Australia. I am not disposed to agree with his criticism. I think the Australian Treaty is a good treaty. We are selling Australia four times as much as she is selling us.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: It is the New Zealand Order in Council.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Again, as to New Zealand, we are selling her much more than she is selling us. My honourable friend knows the situation. We cannot expect that even our sister Dominions will open their markets to us without some kind of reciprocity. It happens that in one particular line of activity, the butter industry, there have been protests against the invasion of the Canadian market by the New Zealand product. There are varied opinions as to the effect of the importation of New Zealand butter. It has been found that from year to year there is a largely increased consumption. As a matter of fact, we are still in the experimental stage and notice has been given of the abrogation of the treaty; but within six months we are going to an Imperial Conference, where such subjects will be debated from an Imperial angle.

I cannot agree with my honourable friend when he criticizes the increased preference to Great Britain. I believe that what we have done has had the effect there of drawing attention to what can be done in the way of inter-Empire trade. The preference granted by the Laurier Government in 1897 had a considerable influence towards increasing the sale of our products in England. Later on we increased that preference, without reciprocity, it is true. But we were dealing with a free trade country which had opened its doors to our products, and it was felt, quite apart from the fact that it was part of the British Commonwealth of Nations, that as it was one of the largest buyers of Canadian goods we should cultivate that market. To-