

Mr. PATERSON. We had all the information that we thought was necessary to justify us in making the agreement.

Mr. HENDERSON. I think, perhaps, hon. gentlemen are a little too severe on the Minister of Customs in demanding this additional information; personally I am under the impression that the Minister of Customs never had the information. I do not think, either, that the Minister of Finance ever took the trouble to inquire as to what these common prices were between this country and the United States. They simply jumped into the arrangement that was handed down, cut and dried, by President Taft, who no doubt took the same means of forcing this agreement upon them as he did in Albany a year ago, when he held a club over the head of the Finance Minister and demanded that he should come down or he would shoot, and Mr. Fielding came down. He gave away a lot of our market, and got nothing whatever in return. I presume the procedure at Washington was very much the same. I have an impression from what I can learn that this whole arrangement was presented to the two ministers who went down there, all cut and dried, and they were told, 'You have got to accept it,' and I do not believe there was any alternative offered them. I do not think the question of prices ever entered into the consideration by the two ministers. What did it signify to them? They were to get a treaty, they found one cut and dried, they took it and came back; and inside of an hour after they met their colleagues, it was thrown on the table, and this parliament was told, 'You must take every word of it, you cannot even take the dot off an 'i' or the stroke off a 't,' you have to accept the whole thing. Why, it was not the purpose of the ministers to make an intelligent agreement, they wanted an agreement, and they were bound to make one, and they did make one. Now I believe if they had had the information, they never would have made such a stupid agreement as that. I take the Minister of Custom's silence as indicating that they did not know a thing about the difference between the prices on this side and on the other side; there can be no other conclusion. I do not think the minister will ever make the people believe that he knew what he was doing. They went along hap-hazard, without considering at all what was best in the interests of Canada. Of course they talk about bigger prices in the United States. They are telling the people of this country that if they can only get their commodities into the United States they will get bigger prices; then, if they can only buy in the United States, they will buy cheaper. All their propositions are so extremely absurd and so contradictory,

that I am convinced they never attempted to gather any information about these facts, and never got the information. It was a go-it-blind and that was all they wanted.

Mr. PATERSON. I am glad to find that at any rate some few gentlemen on the other side of the House have made up their minds what they ought to do on this question. We may hear from the others by and by.

Mr. BURRELL. I think it must strike every member on this side and the country as well as an extraordinary thing that with such an important matter as this before the country the one little piece of statistical information that the country needs on which to base their reasoning is absolutely denied by the government who are in charge of the whole thing. The Minister of Customs says that they had all the information that they thought necessary, and yet he refuses apparently to tabulate that information in such a shape that the House can understand it and the country base their arguments upon it. It is extraordinary, the minister would hardly think he was justified in going to the length he did, in reference to the fruit industry unless he had posted himself upon the subject statistically and if he had all the statistics in his possession the fruit growers of Canada have an absolute right to have them laid on the table. Seven weeks have elapsed since an important delegation of 800 fruit growers from Niagara appeared before the government. An order was issued that their representations should be printed forthwith, yet seven weeks have elapsed and we have not received the printed copies of those representations, so that the country have neither the information on which the ministers acted nor the arguments advanced by the fruit men.

Mr. MURPHY. When the hon. member drew attention to the printing of the proceedings, on the occasion of the visit of that deputation to Ottawa, I made inquiry and was told that the report was ready for distribution that day.

Mr. HENDERSON. Where is it now?

Mr. MURPHY. In the distribution office.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS—RECEPTION TO CARDINAL VANNUTELLI.

Mr. SPROULE. This seems to be an hour of complaint about the answers given by members of the government. I would call attention to some answers which I received which in my judgment were not proper answers. These answers are either right or wrong; if they are right, they do