

that qualification, and I want to know what authority he has for making that statement. We do not want him to tell us what is in the document; we know what it provides. But he says that the United States insisted upon a certain qualification and I say that he cannot give me any authority for that statement.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I should think that something which the United States obtained would be obtained on their own insistence and not on the insistence of this country. Anyone would presume that. Would the hon. gentleman permit me to read what he omitted?

Mr. FIELDING: Yes, if it will do any good

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is what I said:

Now, mark you, I said there would be something to say for it. There would at the same time be much to say against it.

And I went on to say what would result.

Mr. FIELDING: Quite so. But the right hon gentleman went on to say that an assurance of permanency was "the root and heart of the whole situation." He not only says that this condition was in the agreement, but he tells us that the American people insisted upon it. That is the vital point; and he has not given any authority for that statement. Nor can he give any such authority; I tell him there is absolutely no foundation for it. The Americans were prepared to discuss a reciprocity treaty for a term of years if we so desired.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That would not be permanent.

Mr. FIELDING: There is no permanent treaty in God's world.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is what I say.

Mr. FIELDING: When the hon. gentleman used the term "permanency" he meant forever, did he? That is not my idea of what in diplomatic affairs the word "permanence" means. However, I again say in reply to my hon. friend that his assertion, that the United States government insisted upon the temporary condition and we had to submit to it, is unwarranted; of my own personal knowledge I say it is not in accordance with the facts. The United States government were prepared to discuss a reciprocity agreement of a broader type if we wanted to do so.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In return for what?

Mr. FIELDING: I will read the essential part of the agreement that we did bring back. But my hon. friend emphasizes the fact that the Americans insisted upon this and

[Mr. Fielding.]

that it was something we had to agree to. I say emphatically there is no warrant for the statement. What happened to the agreement when we came back? Was it not attacked because it was considered to be practically permanent? Was not the burden of every complaint from the Conservative party "You have bound Canada hand and foot?" Was not that the story? It is a new story now. To-day they say they wanted a permanent agreement, but at that time we were charged with binding Canada hand and foot to these horrid Americans. "No truck or trade with the Yankees" was the cry of those days, and now the right hon. gentleman says, "Oh, it would have been all right if we had only had some guarantee of permanency."

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The Minister of Agriculture is very much amused to-night.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think it is perhaps the hundredth time the hon. gentleman has stated that hon. members of the opposition at that time declared for "No truck or trade with the Yankees." I ask him now for his authority for that declaration. That was entirely an invention of the hon. gentleman's leader of that time.

Mr. FIELDING: I saw it at that time in the press. I never attributed the phrase to the right hon. gentleman himself, but I have been informed and believe that that was the cry of the Conservative party.

Mr. DUFF: I heard Sir Robert Borden say it.

Mr. FIELDING: I heard it was stated in Ontario by the chairman of a meeting with Sir Robert Borden sitting on the platform. However, "No truck or trade with the Yankees" was the slogan throughout the country, no matter by whom it was originated.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does the hon. gentleman think that the statement of some chairman of some meeting is authority for attributing it to the Conservative party?

Mr. BUREAU: It was in the literature of the Conservative party.

Mr. FIELDING: If used at a public meeting by the chairman of that meeting with Sir Robert Borden sitting on the platform it is pretty good evidence that it was the slogan of the Conservative party at that time. However, I want now to show what was in this agreement that my hon. friend has referred