

Hon. Mr. KING: I just want to inform the Senate that these agreements were tabled in the Senate on November 3 last year. If honourable senators did not familiarize themselves with these papers, it is surely a reflection on no one but themselves.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. KING: Then I would move:

That a message be sent to the House of Commons to acquaint that House that the Senate has approved trade agreements entered into with Chile, Brazil and the Argentine Republic.

Hon. CREELMAN MacARTHUR: Honourable senators, one might consider that the adoption of the report brought in by the Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Commerce would bring about the happy consummation of these treaties, if the three South American countries concerned had ratified them; but now we find several further resolutions to be passed. I may be wrong, but I think they are superfluous. We certainly expected when we went to the committee this morning that something would be placed before us in the way of a paper that would show the industries of the different countries affected, their exports, their imports, and the total amount of money involved in one way or another. But we did not have that. However, it was felt generally by the committee that the Minister and the Deputy Minister made out a good case, and the committee accepted the agreements. I do not think there should be any apprehension as to their outcome. At the same time it seems to me that this House has not been treated fairly in the way of being given information; I believe we should have more detailed information about the whole transaction and the agreements.

Agreements will be made with five or six other South American countries, in all probability, and we shall have to go all over this kind of thing again. I do not understand why the Minister did not line up all the republics of South America when he was down there, and why he did not present all the agreements to us at one time, when we could have before us details of the givings and the takings, so as to know where we stood. We did not get that information this morning. But there was a disposition to be lenient to the Minister and his Deputy because they seemed to present a good case and to satisfy the committee that everything was lovely. Well, it may be, but we do not know for certain. It is not a big matter, in one way, but we should know on which side of the books the balance is struck and we should know more about the items that are to be imported and exported. I am not objecting to these agreements. I

have every confidence in the Minister of Trade and Commerce, because he married a girl from my town, and that counts for something. I do not think we need worry about being at any disadvantage. At the same time, when we are dealing with treaties we should not have too much sentiment and too much of this goodwill factor. We should know where we stand with regard to our trade undertakings and our rights. That is my position.

Hon. B. F. SMITH: Honourable senators, it seems to me that in this period of Canada's life it is highly desirable that we should try to reach out and secure all the markets we possibly can, because trade has been so disrupted by the war that we cannot tell just where we shall be after the war is over. I have read these agreements very carefully, and I know they affect that portion of New Brunswick from which I come; and I have this to say, that I think they are highly commendable. There may be some points in them that one could find fault with, but I wish to voice my sentiment as being, generally speaking, in favour of them.

The motion was agreed to.

WAR PLANT EMPLOYEES RETURN

On the inquiry by Hon. Mr. Sauv e:

1. Is the Government keeping any supervision or checking on the number, the classification and the protection of persons employed in war plants?
2. Are those persons granted any indemnity in case of disease contracted in war plants?

Hon. Mr. KING: I would suggest that this inquiry be treated as an order for a return, and I table the return forthwith.

PRIVATE BILL SECOND READING POSTPONED

On the Order for the second reading of Bill C, an Act to change the name of The Saskatchewan Life Insurance Company to Fidelity Life Assurance Company.

Hon. Sir ALLEN AYLESWORTH: Honourable members, the honourable senator from East York (Hon. Mr. McGuire), who introduced this Bill, is not able to be here to-day, and I would suggest that the second reading of the Bill had better stand until next week.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Carried.

The motion for the second reading of the Bill was postponed.