

character to the work of a board the legislation constituting the board provides that the chairman must be an experienced judge. The statutes constituting the Railway Commission and the Pension Board contain this provision, and a similar provision is incorporated in the Railway Bill which recently passed this House. But I do not think it is good practice to go further and say that a certain class or profession shall be given representation in the Appeal Court. It would seem to me that, other things being equal, a medical man should be one of the members of the Court. I think I am safe in assuring the honourable senator that the Government will very carefully consider his suggestion and discuss it with the present chairman, Judge Hyndman. I have no doubt that if he agrees with the suggestion a medical man will be selected as one of the members of the Court.

Hon. Mr. BELAND: Under the circumstances what the right honourable leader of the House has said amounts almost to an undertaking on his part that a medical man shall be appointed to replace Colonel LaFleche.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It is not an undertaking.

Hon. Mr. BELAND: I take it to be almost an undertaking. Subsection 3 of section 9 provides that the Governor in Council must appoint as a member of the Court "a person who either has been a judge of a Superior Court or of a County or District Court of any of the provinces of Canada, or a barrister or advocate of at least ten years' standing at the bar of any of the said provinces." I think every honourable member will agree with me that consideration of a pension application involves medical rather than legal questions.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. BELAND: But there is no provision here that one of the members of the Appeal Court shall be a medical man. As a matter of fact, the three original members of the Appeal Board were legal men.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not think Colonel LaFleche is a lawyer.

Hon. Mr. BELAND: Certainly there was no medical man on the old Appeal Board. I believe there has always been a medical man on the Board of Pension Commissioners, and it seems to me it would be a grave mistake not to appoint a doctor to the new Appeal Court. However, under the circumstances, I do not press the amendment.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

CANADA-FRANCE TRADE AGREEMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the second reading of Bill 107, an Act respecting a certain Trade Agreement between Canada and France.

He said: Honourable senators, in a sense this is a taxation measure; nevertheless it is in much greater degree a very important article of policy, and the House is entitled to an explanation of the agreement which it is asked to ratify.

The Bill is very brief, but the agreement attached to it is a lengthy document. The Bill merely ratifies the agreement, and gives the Governor in Council power to take such other steps as may be appropriate to give effect to it.

Our first trade arrangement with France was made about forty years ago. In 1892 France adopted the protective tariff system, based on a report made by a distinguished French economist. Thereafter Canada sought closer trade relations with France, and, very largely through the efforts of Sir Charles Tupper, a trade agreement was negotiated in 1893. This agreement constituted the basis of our trade relations with France until early in the present century, when the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a very definite effort to secure a more favourable arrangement. The French public had massed itself behind the protective principle and very little success was achieved. In fact the French Senate rejected the tentative arrangement that had been made. About 1908 the Canadian Government entered into fresh negotiations with the French Government, but they were not concluded until 1910; then a treaty was ratified, subject to a certain proviso.

The post-war conditions convinced France that she should raise her tariff barriers still higher, and as a result the treaty of 1910 became less and less beneficial to Canada. Finally, in 1920, it was abandoned, and a *modus vivendi* was entered into pending the negotiation of another treaty.

In 1922 the Government of Mr. King made a new arrangement with France. This treaty was signed by Mr. Lapointe and Mr. King on behalf of Canada and by the British Ambassador to France on behalf of Great Britain.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Pardon me. Mr. Fielding and Mr. Lapointe signed the treaty on behalf of Canada.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am obliged to my honourable friend for the correction. Up to that time it was the practice for our