

any person. These agreements are very similar to, if not the same as, agreements we have made previously with other countries.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. KING: I would move:

That it is expedient that the Senate and the House of Commons do approve the Trade Agreement between Canada and the Argentine Republic, signed October 2, 1941, and that the Senate do approve the same.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. KING: In regard to the agreement between Canada and the Republic of Brazil, I would move:

That it is expedient that the Senate and the House of Commons do approve the Trade Agreement between Canada and Brazil, signed October 17, 1941, and that the Senate do approve the same.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Honourable senators, I do not know anything about these agreements, and I doubt whether there are three members of this Chamber who have seen them. While it may be quite right and proper to adopt them, we are just being asked to become rubber stamps and approve of something we have never seen or read, and probably shall not see for some time, if ever.

Hon. Mr. KING: I think my honourable friend is hardly fair. This matter has certainly been discussed in the House of Commons, and the Minister made a very comprehensive statement there. My honourable friend, as a member of this Chamber, surely cannot have acquainted himself with all the information which was given in the House of Commons.

Hon. J. T. HAIG: Honourable senators, I had the pleasure of attending the meeting of the Committee on Banking and Commerce this morning. I went there in a quite critical frame of mind; my attitude was very much like that which has just been expressed by the honourable gentleman from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock); but when I heard the explanation given by the Minister, and especially that by the Deputy Minister, I had no criticism whatever to offer. They simply told us that they made the same agreements as are made with other countries. The Government of each of these countries agrees to extend to us whatever preferences it may give to any other country, and we in turn agree that any preferences we give to other countries shall be extended to these three countries. There are no special concessions on anything. These three nations apply favoured-nation-treaty provisions to us, and we do the same to them. It is not a case of our signing something blindly.

Hon. Mr. CALDER.

Last night I agreed with the honourable senator from Prince (Hon. Mr. MacArthur), but I changed my mind after attending the committee meeting this morning. I think I can say that at the committee we were completely convinced by the Minister, and especially by the Deputy Minister. I might say under my breath that I was delighted with the Deputy Minister. In my opinion the Government has made a good deal. The agreement will not result in a great volume of trade just now, on account of the war and the lack of shipping. That is the problem, the lack of shipping. But a good atmosphere has been created. I gathered from the Minister and the Deputy Minister that these countries feel friendly towards Canada, and that these agreements are but the beginning. I am not trying to defend the Government; I am simply saying that after what I heard at the committee I consider that a good deal, a reasonable deal, was made.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: May I ask my honourable friend a question? Is it most-favoured-nation treatment that is involved, or the intermediate tariff?

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: It is the same thing.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: It is favoured-nation treatment. If one of these countries negotiates with the United States, for instance, and makes some special concession to that country, it would have to make the same concession to us. That is favoured-nation treatment. We have to extend the same treatment to them. If we make any special concession to any nation in the same territory as Chili, Brazil or Argentina, we must extend that same concession to these three countries.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: That is, if we make any special concession to any country outside of the British Empire—to any foreign country.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Perhaps the Minister did not intend to emphasize this, but I know what impressed me was the statement that these treaties created a good feeling among these South American nations towards Canada. The United States has been exerting itself to build up a good spirit with South America, and Canada so far has not been very well known to the countries down there. Now they are welcoming us as traders. I honestly think that agreements like these will help not only Canada, but the British Empire, to have a better understanding with the countries involved.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: We had an unfavourable balance of trade of \$11,346,000 with Brazil last year.