

blundered in England. Perhaps they blundered all the time.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That is a very strong word to use. My hon. friend will not say that Great Britain was not getting the benefit of the preference from the very beginning?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Yes, but other countries were getting it.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—We could not help that until they denounced the treaty.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—We are beginning to get a little rusty in the history of this question, but my hon. friend helps me out amazingly. He reminds me of the fact that for a considerable period his government collected duties against Belgium and Germany, which they had afterwards to refund to the importers.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They were allowed to come in until the treaty was denounced and that forced the hand of the British government.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Until Chamberlain put them right.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman is altogether wrong.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I know that I am not wrong. When they passed their reciprocal tariff so called, their customs officers here acted upon it as applying to all countries whose tariff was as low, or lower than the tariff of Canada.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes, the hon. gentleman is right there.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—They collected duties on German and Belgian goods, which they had afterwards to refund.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—We knew from the beginning that Germany and Belgium were entitled to the same benefit as England, and that is the only way we could force the hand of the British government.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—My hon. friend has ceased to surprise me when he makes that statement.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am familiar with it.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Because he must remember not only did they not know that, but they acted on exactly opposite lines.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON.

When Sir Charles Tupper pointed out that they had not the power to exclude Germany and Belgium the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Sir Louis Davies, said that not a fifth rate lawyer in that House would be found to take that position, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, representing the government of Canada, went before the Privy Council of Great Britain to contend that their tariff was all right, and that they could still continue to enforce that tariff against Germany and Belgium, notwithstanding the treaties. My hon. friend shakes his head. Is it possible that my hon. friend will undertake before hon. gentlemen in this House to deny that this was the position they took?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I say that we were perfectly conscious of the existence of the two treaties, and knew that Germany and Belgium were entitled to any advantages that the mother country enjoyed in the colonies. We resisted that interpretation, we did all we could to call public attention to it, and it was the only way we could accomplish our object of having the treaties denounced.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman denied positively that it was an interference in any way with those treaties.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Yes emphatically, and not only did the hon. gentleman and his friends make these statements in parliament and before the country but they carried them before the Privy Council of England and the Privy Council declared that they were entirely wrong. As I have remarked, I did not intend to take any part in the discussion of the Address, because very many of the clauses are not controversial. That I freely admit. They are far from controversial. They are clauses in which we all very heartily agree and there are very few of its clauses, therefore, to which I wish to refer. The speech as a whole is about as commonplace as the observations we pass to each other about the state of the weather, but there is just one point in the speech which certainly is extremely controversial if you can describe a statement such as that with regard to the census as being open to any controversy. That is where the ministers of His Excellency the