

spondents in Australia for collection only a portion of such amounts may—as funds are available—be transferred to London while stringent finance continues. For telegraph transfer the cost is now over three per cent, which in the case of some oversea shippers has caused them to place collections made on their account on fixed deposits in Australian banks for twelve months.

Not only is there to be considered the question of arranging our trade relations with Australia and other countries so as not to injure Canadian industry, but there is also the question of monetary exchange. If we could increase our purchases from Australia without injuring Canadian business then the question of exchange would not be so difficult. I notice my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) is smiling at that.

Mr. DUNNING: My hon. friend will pardon me.

Mr. STEVENS: The very germ of a treaty should be to endeavour so to promote traffic between the two countries as to balance trade.

Mr. DUNNING: I do not desire to interrupt my hon. friend because what he has stated is quite true, but I cannot help but think of the condemnation he has heaped upon the government because it has negotiated these trade treaties in order to buy goods from other countries. My hon. friend is proving to the hilt that we must buy in order to be able to sell.

Mr. STEVENS: I am glad the hon. minister has drawn my attention to that, for that is the complaint we have to make to the government. In negotiating the French treaty, which is notorious in this respect, they ignored entirely, or at least did not appreciate, the effect of the trade they were making. In this instance the result has not been to increase our purchases from Australia to any great degree.

Mr. DUNNING: We are always condemned for what we do.

Mr. STEVENS: Because you do it in the wrong way. We negotiated a treaty with France and allowed that country the privilege of raising or lowering her tariff any time she desires. We tied up ourselves to a fixed rate for French goods coming into the country and the result has been that we have purchased considerable French wines, silks, velvets, embroideries, laces and other goods which were brought into the country at a fixed rate of duty, while France, like a flash out of the blue, placed a duty of 72 cents per bushel against our wheat. The result was that our purchases from France increased and our sales to France decreased.

[Mr. Stevens.]

In connection with this treaty, I find this situation: Take the dried fruit industry, for example. It will not do to say that by putting a little duty on fruit we are going to make the working man of this country pay more for his living. That cheap talk may go very well on the hustings, but when it comes down to dealing with the affairs of a country it has mighty little weight and very little sense to it. The fact is that we purchased from the United States for the year ending March 31, 1929, which is the last year I have, \$4,127,000 worth of dried fruits, and from Australia only \$880,000 worth. The point I put to the government is this: By an adjustment of our tariff, by raising our general tariff and then giving Australia a preference under that general tariff, we could divert a large part of this business from the United States to Australia. But what we actually did was this: We left the general tariff where it was; it was already very low, and we gave to Australia a preference beyond that.

Mr. BROWN: Do the figures my hon. friend has quoted for dried fruits include raisins and currants?

Mr. STEVENS: Yes, I think so. I got these figures from the annual trade returns, from that big book.

Mr. DUNNING: And the figures quoted include raisins and currants?

Mr. STEVENS: Yes. Let us face this dried fruit business frankly. It is quite true that up to the last year or two, Australian dried fruits have not been put up in as tasty and attractive a form as has been achieved by the California dried fruit industry. That is not due to the fact that Australia cannot or will not do it; it is because the organization of the dried fruit industry in Australia has not advanced to the stage that it has reached in California. I recall very well that an envoy came from Australia in 1926 or 1927 to discuss this very point with us, and he admitted frankly that Australia had not achieved the high standard of packing that California had, but that it was bending every effort to do so; and in a matter of trade between one country and another it must be remembered that a year or two is not of any very great importance, so long as the effort is directed towards the desired goal. So I say that we might increase our purchases of dried fruits from Australia by a proper adjustment of our tariff that would not injure the Canadian consumer, but would divert some of this business from the United States to Australia. That I think should be the objective.