

This treaty is also terminable after twelve months' notice.

While these two treaties remain in force, the express stipulations above quoted are extended to all countries whose commercial treaties with Great Britain contain a most-favoured-nation clause, and apply to British colonies.

Sir, that matter was brought up in the British House of Commons, brought up for an authoritative answer, and the answer made by Sir E. Grey on the 30th of June, 1895, was the Government's answer. He says :

These treaties (1) Do not prevent differential treatment by the United Kingdom in favour of British colonies. (2) They do prevent differential treatment by British colonies in favour of the United Kingdom. (3) They do not prevent differential treatment by British colonies in favour of each other.

My hon. friend, if he wishes to inquire further into this, can read Lord Ripon's despatch which deals with this question exhaustively. I then put the case as to whether he is right in his assumption, or whether I am right that these two treaties carry with them the same rates in Canada as are given to Great Britain, and that being an Imperial treaty, it is a treaty that must be carried out. Sir, I think that includes the countries that have most-favoured-nation treaties, of which Canada forms a part with Great Britain, and there are some eight or ten of those. But it goes wider than that. There is an Act upon the Statute-book here called the French Treaty Act, and one of the articles of that Act reads this way :

Any commercial advantage granted by Canada to any third power, especially in tariff matters, should be enjoyed fully by France, Algeria and the French colonies.

And the Commercial Treaties Act passed in 1895, declares that :

These advantages granted by that treaty of 1894 to France should extend to foreign powers with most-favoured-nation treaties with Great Britain, including Canada and also Great Britain herself, and British colonies.

My contention is, therefore, that when the hon. gentleman makes his assertion that what he proposes to do is to make a treaty—no, not a treaty but to give preferential treatment.

The PRIME MINISTER. There is the gist.

Mr. FOSTER. And a very small gist—to give preferential treatment with Great Britain in this colony of Canada, without its carrying the duty to make that same to Belgium, Germany, France and the allied countries, so far as the most-favoured-nation treaties are concerned—I say that my hon. friend's position is wrong. He must be prepared to say, that in this jubilee year he will signalize it by refusing, as an integral part of the Empire, to be bound by an Im-

Mr. FOSTER.

perial treaty. These Imperial treaties are strong and binding, they were made by Britain, the mother power, for herself and her colonies, and so long as they remain, that is not a well-grounded loyalty which will refuse to be bound by them. My hon. friend has either to repudiate these Imperial treaties or he has to act in accordance with them. What will he do? Repudiate them with the light and jaunty air of the Minister of Finance, who said: Well, the world still moves, you know? Will he repudiate them, or will he loyally be bound by them? I carry this no further, except simply to state this, that my hon. friend either has hung a pretense upon the pole of impossibility, and with it is carrying out the programme of prolonging that policy which he has put before this country successfully for a number of years, of holding up promises to the eye which are not realized in performance. He is either doing that, or he is prepared to repudiate, in this jubilee year, Great Britain and her Imperial power as a treaty maker. Sir, I do not count loyalty on that score. It may be that this Dominion of Canada, if it could make preferential terms with Great Britain and with her alone, would be willing to do it to an extent which might press hard upon the industries of Canada itself, but whilst from the warm blood of loyalty that courses in her veins, she would make that sacrifice for Britain, it is another thing when we are asked to place our industries at the competition and mercy of a number of nations, some of them the largest manufacturing nations of the world, getting no benefits for them at all, compared with the benefits which Great Britain gives us. Before my hon. friend launched on legislation of this impossible kind, he should have raised the principle and settled the principle as to whether we can do that or not. Then his legislation would follow. Did I hear the Finance Minister say last night that when the offices here opened this morning British goods would come in at 1/8 per cent reduction on the main tariff from British Columbia to Cape Breton? Has this been done?

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). It has.

Mr. FOSTER. Then the hon. gentleman has done a thing which he has not the slightest power in the world to do. In the first place, that resolution is not passed.

The PRIME MINISTER. Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. When was it put to the vote—when did it pass? I say it has not passed. There is no authority to act under that resolution until it becomes law. It is different from the agreement for convenience we have made with respect to items of the tariff for the purpose of protecting the revenue. This, Sir, is the mak-