

George Fuller, was very kind to us. When we thanked him for his kindness he said he was only trying to repay some of the hospitality that had been shown to him when he was in Canada a few years ago. We were invited to stay in Australia for some time as the guests of the Australian government. Australia is very prosperous. They have had a record crop of wool, and are receiving a record price. They also had a record crop of wheat, and prices, of course, are very good. We saw no orientals in Australia. We had a demonstration there that a country can get along very well indeed without orientals of any kind. My visit to Australia convinced me that there is no danger at all commercially for Canada if orientals are excluded, so far as the carrying on of the industrial work of the nation is concerned.

Great interest was manifested in Australia in the trade agreement between that country and Canada. It seems there is a good deal of propaganda against it in that country. They are telling the people there that Canada prefers to do business with the United States rather than with Australia, and that propaganda is having some effect. We did what we could to offset that propaganda, but I am afraid they will commence to think there is something in it because of the action of this government in delaying ratification of the treaty. I cannot understand why this government is acting in such an uncalled-for manner. The agreement apparently was entered into, but we have not been able to get the particulars of it in the House. The minister has not given us the details; he has declined or has failed to lay a copy of the agreement on the table. But I find in the Commercial Intelligence Journal, issued by his own department, under date of October 11 last, a statement to the effect that a trade agreement has been arrived at between Canada and Australia. We were told when the minister returned from Australia that he had made an agreement which would be of great assistance to Canada and which would promote trade between Canada and Australia. Well, what has happened to it in the meantime? The Australians are commencing to wonder what has happened to it, and so are the people of this country. I have in my hand telegrams from certain concerns in British Columbia; I will read one or two of them. Here is one dated March 25:

We urge you use your influence without delay towards ratification by parliament of Australian trade agreement without change, not only because of its benefit to paper industry but to Canadian industries generally. Considering the large number of Canadians employed in

paper industry, surely this industry is of more importance to Canada than California fruit industry.

POWELL RIVER COMPANY LIMITED.

Then there is another one dated March 24:

We urge you to give immediate attention to the Australian trade agreement and its ratification without change by the Canadian parliament, both as a measure of benefit to Canada and of particular value to the paper industry.

PACIFIC MILLS LIMITED.

Why does the government not bring down this treaty for ratification? I am not prepared to say, but it has been rumoured that the California fruit interests have something to do with it; that they are opposed to this trade agreement. Surely, as stated in the first telegram I read, the interests of the paper industry and of other industries of Canada are of more importance than those of the California fruit industry. Why should we not get from Australia or South Africa or any other part of the British Empire all the fruit we can? Why should we not decrease as much as possible our purchases from the United States? There is every reason why that should be done.

Apparently this treaty has been objected to; it is said there is some objection from the Progressives. I do not know whether or not that is the case, but I cannot understand why they should object to the treaty unless they are opposed to the necessary increases of the tariff against the United States in that connection. I shall not take the time to go into the details of this agreement which is referred to in the Commercial Intelligence Journal, but I do say that a great deal of harm will be done as regards our relations with Australia if this agreement is not brought down promptly and dealt with in a proper way.

I think also that Canada should have more trade agents in Australia as well as in South Africa. There is a trade agent at Melbourne, but I do not think there is any at Sydney, and Sydney is the most important city in Australia.

We sailed from Sydney on November 20 on the Makura, of the Canadian-Australian line, and arrived at Auckland, New Zealand, on November 24. We were there met by civic officials and representatives of the government. We were well entertained in Auckland and enjoyed our stay there very much. The Minister of Justice and Education, then Hon. now Sir John Parr, was very kind indeed to us and invited us to stay a month in New Zealand as the guests of the government. We there met Mr. Croft, the Canadian trade commissioner, who is doing good work. New