

it has very little, for the simple reason that the goods we sell are made more than 75 per cent in our own country. Will the minister say now whether there is any other object in Mr. Ross' visit, save to review this one clause and adjust it satisfactorily? Has there been some proposal given Mr. Ross to transmit to Australia, altering the alleged treaty in some other way? Are those terms that are advertised by the plenipotentiaries of other countries as the terms of the treaty really the terms of it? If so, is there some particular besides the one the hon. gentleman has referred to that the government is not satisfied with? If there are any people in this world, I would think, who had the right to know what was in this treaty at this stage, it is surely the representatives of the people of Canada. Are these one-time, sometime apostles of the rights of parliament, of the true underlying principles of democracy, these decriers of autocracy, these people who would restore responsible government,—are these to be those who hide and continue to hide the essential elements of a really important treaty from the parliament of Canada long after the parliaments of other countries have been advised? Is the minister prepared to accept that as the situation and allow parliament to be dissolved and the treaty to be still at sea when we come home after the fourth session?

Mr. ROBB: I do not think any good purpose can be served by discussing this matter. I am sure my right hon. friend is as anxious as I am to have a favourable trade agreement with the sister dominion of Australia. I am satisfied of this, because men with whom he himself was closely associated, made an attempt on two different occasions to make such an agreement.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Just one.

Mr. ROBB: Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Sir George Foster?

Mr. MEIGHEN: That was before my time.

Mr. ROBB: I am frank to say this: That there are those in Australia and there are those—well I would not say in Canada, but there are those on this continent—who are not anxious this trade agreement should be consummated.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In Canada, did the minister say?

Mr. ROBB: I do not think any good purpose can be served by a discussion of the matter, and I do not wish to be drawn into such a discussion.

Mr. CALDWELL: I received a letter from a certain business man in New Brunswick about a month ago. He said that in conversation with a member of the manufacturers' association, that gentleman said to him that the reason this treaty was not ratified was on account of the opposition of the Progressives in this parliament. In reply to him I said there had been no opposition by anybody, because no treaty had been submitted to the House, and it was pretty hard to say whether we would support it or not until we heard what it was. I wonder just how the member of the manufacturers' association got that impression. The minister said he would hesitate about saying that there were people in Canada who might be opposed to the treaty; and so far as I am personally concerned I wish to disclaim any opposition to the treaty until I know what is in it, and I do not wish to be under the imputation that I am against it, as has been suggested by the member of the manufacturers' association.

Mr. ROBB: I am sorry if I have created the inference that it was representative of the people in the House of Commons that might be opposed to it; that was not what I had in mind at all. But there are certain strong interests, both in Australia and in the continent of America, that are doing the best they can to create divisions, and I do not think any good purpose can be served by a further discussion at this moment.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What portion of the continent of America does the minister refer to?

Mr. ROBB: I would rather not go any further.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In Canada?

Mr. ROBB: I am not going to discuss it.

Mr. POWER: Wrangel island?

The CHAIRMAN: Six o'clock—

Mr. MEIGHEN: This is important enough to miss a dinner over it.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, stands.

Item stands.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.