

out of this question has been the disastrous result of the policy pursued by the right hon. gentleman who leads this Government. I must say, and I say it with regret, that in my judgment, from the hour the Government was formed in 1896 until they went down to this international conference or meeting in Quebec two years later, if their sole object had been to render it impossible for Canada to obtain any fair and just and reasonable arrangements with the United States, they left nothing undone during these two long years, that could ensure the accomplishment of that result. That is a very strong statement, but I will show the House, as briefly as I can, the ground on which I base it. What was their first step? The first unfortunate step taken by the right hon. First Minister was the last which any man acquainted with diplomacy, or who had any knowledge of the subject of diplomatic arrangements, would have taken. That step was to unbosom himself to a Chicago reporter. In that interview he took the last ground which any man charged with the duty of leading the Government of Canada ought to take. He said that he and his associates were the only men in Canada who were friendly to the United States of America, the only men from whom the United States could expect to receive such treatment as would be satisfactory to them. Was that calculated to strengthen the hands of the right hon. gentleman? Just the reverse. His statement was not true. I do not intend for a moment to say that the hon. gentleman wilfully misstated the facts, but that his recollection entirely failed him. His recollection of the history of Canada, his knowledge of the Conservative party in Canada, entirely failed him when he made the untrue statement to a Chicago reporter that the Liberal-Conservative party in Canada was hostile to the United States of America.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think it is going rather too far to state that any hon. member of this House has made an untrue statement. There are a great many other ways by which the hon. gentleman can express his appreciation of what the right hon. gentleman said.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not intend for a single moment to insinuate that the right hon. Prime Minister made a deliberately false statement. I draw the distinction between that and an untrue statement. Any statement is untrue which is contradicted by the facts. I have made a great many statements to-night which hon. gentlemen opposite will challenge as untrue because they differ from me on questions of fact. But I do not at all wish to be implied that I am charging the right hon. gentleman with deliberately misstating any facts. I want that to be clearly understood. I would not use the word if I thought it were of a personally offensive character, but I am

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

bound to say that, whether untrue or not, the statement of the right hon. gentleman is disproved by the whole history of Canada from the first hour of confederation down to the present. There never was a party in this House or country that recognized more than did the Liberal-Conservative party the great importance of having the most friendly relations, both socially and commercially, with the United States of America. I hold that as a cardinal principle, and I say that the Conservative party have acted upon that principle from the first hour of confederation down to the present, and shall prove directly, out of my right hon. friend's own mouth, that he was mistaken in bringing that charge against us. What are the facts? Every one remembers that in 1871, the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald was sent to Washington, as a joint High Commissioner, to negotiate a treaty between Great Britain and the United States. What happened? He did negotiate a treaty. There is not a gentleman on the other side who will contradict me when I say that there never was so critical an hour in the relations between Great Britain and the United States. Every one knows that the seizures made by the "Alabama" during the civil war in the United States excited the most intensely bitter feeling on the part of the United States towards Great Britain—a feeling not confined to one, but shared by all parties. At that critical hour, the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald was sent down to Washington, as one of a High Commission, to negotiate a treaty for the settlement of that "Alabama" question and certain other questions that were in controversy between the United States and Canada at that time. Well, Mr. Speaker, a treaty was negotiated and signed, and its adoption was moved on the floor of this House. I shall have occasion directly to draw the attention of the House to the attitude taken by the Conservatives on the one side and the Liberals on the other, as to what should be done with regard to that important treaty, but first let me refer to the remarks made by the Right Hon. First Minister to the Chicago reporter. He said:

The Liberal Government, which has just taken office, desires and intends to signalize its administration by a renewal—

A renewal, mark you, Mr. Speaker—

—of the neighbourly relations with our friends across the border. As you have suggested, the relations between Canada and the United States have not been as cordial for some time past as I hope they will be in the future. Some years ago, when considerable friction had been created by the North Atlantic fishery troubles, I took an opportunity to say that the question should be adjusted in a friendly manner, becoming an enlightened and friendly people, by the simple process of give and take, and I do not see now why an arrangement should not be made resembling that effected by the Treaty of Washington in 1871 and the treaty of 1854, whereby not only the ports but the inshore waters of both countries were thrown open to the fish-