

he appeared to fear it on the ground that it might involve retaliation to a certain extent. I must confess, so far as I am individually concerned, that the word "retaliation," conveys no terrors to me whatever. Personally, I am strongly in favour of the utmost freedom of labour. I should like to see the boundary line between us and the United States, in so far as labour is concerned, wiped out altogether. I should like to see the state of affairs that used to exist restored—to see our people free to go and work in the United States if they found they could get a better wage there than in Canada, and to see the citizens of the United States allowed to come to Canada and work on exactly the same terms as our own people. But unfortunately that state of affairs no longer exists. It has been done away with by no act of the Canadian people, the Canadian Parliament or the Canadian Government, but by the action of the American Congress. I must say that personally I would be strongly in favour of giving the Americans a dose of their own medicine in this respect: because I do not understand why—to use the humble phrase—what is sauce for the goose should not be sauce for the gander. I believe it would cause a much more contented feeling among our people if they knew that in this respect they were placed on exactly the same footing as the citizens of the United States. However, as I understand the First Minister to say that negotiations will be entered into with the Government of the United States to see if this unfortunate legislation cannot be removed, or at any rate be so modified as to remove the grievance under which our people are at present suffering; and as I further understand that if such negotiations fail, some measure of this sort will receive the support of the Government, so that our working classes shall no longer be allowed to remain in the disadvantageous position they at present occupy; and as I find that my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition—who, like the hon. leader of the Government has had more experience of matters of this sort than I have had—is of opinion that the desired result may be better brought about in this way than by pressing the Bill. I heartily concur in the proposition that the Bill be allowed to stand.

Mr. DYMENT. I was not aware, Mr. Speaker, that this question was coming up to-night, and consequently shall not attempt to discuss it at any length, but I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without adding my voice to that of the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) on behalf of the Canadian workingman. With the permission of the House, I would like to read a portion of a letter which I received from a gentleman, at Sault Ste. Marie, a few days ago. He says:

I took a walk along the canal yesterday with the view of finding out the number of Ameri-

cans who are working on this side and living across the river. As you are aware, there is now in course of erection a residence for the superintendent of the canals. On making inquiry we found that there were nine men working on that building who cross over to the American side, night and morning, and bring their dinner in their baskets. The corner and other cut stone is being manufactured also over the river. There is also a large hotel just starting opposite the Bank of Commerce, to cost about \$10,000. The work of masonry is being done by an American. These are only samples of what is being done all the time. If our men were treated in the same way we would not object, but when our men go over the river to work they are ordered out of the town. We trust that no time will be lost in stopping this thing.

Now, we have been waiting and waiting, with a good deal of patience, for the labour law of our neighbour to be amended in some way more favourable to us, but, so far as I am concerned, patience has ceased to be a virtue with regard to this matter, and I think, if we are to have any semblance of protection in this country, it ought to be given our workingmen. If not during this session, I hope that in the coming winter session, a Bill will be passed through this House, giving proper protection to our workingmen, or at least putting them on the same footing as the American workingmen occupy on the other side.

Mr. GANONG. Representing, as I have the honour to represent, a constituency lying along the American border, I should not feel that I had done my duty unless I expressed to some extent my sense of the situation in which we find ourselves at present. While I do not agree with the mover of this resolution that it should be pressed this session, I hope that it will receive due consideration in the future when I shall be able to support it. I cannot do so at present, and I will give you the reason. During the late campaign, in our county at least, we were advised that if the Liberal or Reform party got into power, we should have such reciprocal trade relations with the United States as would be most desirable for both countries. In view of this pledge, I do not wish to ask the Government to put themselves in a position in which it might be brought forward that we had passed any resolution that would cause any friction. I do not wish them to be hampered in any way. I came here as an independent Conservative, working, I trust, for the best interests of Canada, and I wish to see this Government have as free hand as possible to adjust, if possible, the trade relations between the two countries. I believe that in our county to-day and the bordering county of Washington in the State of Maine, the citizens of both countries represent as nearly as possible the great brotherhood of man, or as nearly as it can be done under different flags. We have the most cordial relations with each other, social and otherwise, so that I cannot wholly agree in what the