

Elgin-Marcy Treaty, which lasted from 1854 to 1866. What was the effect of that reciprocity between Canada and the United States? Turning to the reports published in those days, I find that the exports of the various provinces to the United States in 1854 amounted to \$10,473,000; in 1855, the year following the treaty, they amounted to \$19,368,000, and in 1866, the last year of the treaty, they amounted to \$39,950,000, so that in 12 years the exports from Canada to the United States increased 280 per cent.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the hon. member may have overlooked the fact that on account of the depreciation of American currency, the exports seemed to be very much larger than they really were. Greenbacks were standing then at about 58.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. These are the values of the exports in gold.

Mr. SPROULE. American currency was not on a gold basis.

Mr. LEMIEUX. At all events, the men who lived between 1854 and 1866 duly appreciated the vast importance of that treaty. Listen to what Sir Alexander Galt, who was the Minister of Finance, said when that treaty came to an end on the 17th of March, 1866:

If we require to find an example of the benefits of free commercial intercourse, we need not look beyond the effects that have followed from the working of the reciprocity treaty with the United States. In one short year from the time when that treaty came into operation, our trade in the natural productions of the two countries swelled from less than \$2,000,000 to upwards of \$10,000,000 per annum, and now, when we are threatened with an interruption of that trade—when we have reason to fear that the action of the United States will prove hostile to the continuance of free commercial relations with this country, when we know that the consideration of this question is not grounded on just views of the material advantages resulting to each country, but that the irritation connected with political events exercises a predominant influence over the minds of American statesmen, it is the duty of the House to provide, if possible, other outlets for our productions.

And Sir John Bourinot, who for many years occupied the position of clerk of this House, but who is probably better known as a great historian of Canada, in his sketch of Lord Elgin, described the results of that treaty in the following terms:

Not only was a large and remunerative trade secured between the United States and the provinces but the social and friendly intercourse of the two countries necessarily increased with the expansion of commercial relations and the creation of common interests between them. Old antipathies and mis-

understandings disappeared under the influence of conditions which brought these communities together and made each of them place a higher estimate on the other's good qualities.

Sir, I prefer this appreciation of Sir John Bourinot, who was a descendant of a United Empire Loyalist family, to the appreciation given this evening by my hon. and loyal friend from East Grey. I know that my hon. friend is loyal to his country; I know that he has faith in his fellow-countrymen, but I could not help thinking this evening, when he was describing his fear of the effects of this treaty on the social and political conditions of Canada in the future, that my hon. friend was, perhaps, more loyal at times to his political party than to his country. Sir, what was the opinion of Canada respecting the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty in 1866? My hon. friend is speaking of the evil effects of that treaty 40 or 50 years after its abrogation, but the men who lived in those days, the men who were at the head of affairs in this country, who piloted the ship of state, thought otherwise. I hold in my hand a Minute of Council adopted on the 19th of February, 1864. Canada was then under the Union. The meeting of Council was held in Quebec, and there were present the Hon. Mr. Thibaudeau, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Dorion, Mr. McDougall, Mr. Fergusson Blair, Mr. Holton, Mr. (afterwards Sir Oliver) Mowat, Mr. Letellier de St. Just, Mr. Huntington and Mr. Laframboise—all names of good old Liberals, loyalists and patriots if ever there were loyalists and patriots in this country. This Minute of Council reads as follows:

Certified copy of a report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 19th February, 1864.

The committee of the Executive Council deem it to be their duty to represent to Your Excellency—

His Excellency, Lord Monk—

—that the recent proceedings in the Congress of the United States respecting the reciprocity treaty have excited the deepest concern in the minds of the people of this province.

Those proceedings have had for their avowed object the abrogation of the treaty at the earliest moment consistent with the stipulation of the instrument itself.

Although no formal action indicative of the strength of the party hostile to the continuance of the treaty has yet taken place, information of an authentic character as to the opinions and purposes of influential public men in the United States has forced upon the committee the conviction that there is imminent danger of its speedy abrogation unless prompt and vigorous steps be taken by Her Majesty's imperial advisers to avert what would be generally regarded by the people of Canada as a great calamity.