

Newfoundland wished to ignore existing treaties, hard and fast though they are, with France, but which are binding, and which England could not, except at the risk of war, infringe upon or abrogate. I say that we have treated Newfoundland well and fairly in all things, and I contend that to-day the people of Newfoundland are as much under obligation to us as we are to them. Had we retaliated on Newfoundland and treated them the way the United States has done Newfoundland would have been in an infinitely worse position to-day than she is, and I must say that I am sorry for the remarks of my hon. friend, because they only show that the party to which he belongs are opposed to the interests of the fishermen, and are willing to sacrifice them at any moment to further the feelings of sympathy which they have for the United States.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend from Ottawa, in speaking with regard to this Bill, has thought proper to make statements with regard to the Government that I do not think are justified, and I do not think he can find any justification for them. He says that the movement which the Government commenced last year, which they have been proceeding with, and which they intend to proceed with, is a sham; that there was no sincerity in their pretensions; that they did not desire to make a treaty with the United States, and had no idea what kind of a treaty they pretended to intend to make—in fact, that they had put forward this suggestion of a commercial treaty with the United States to extend our trade relations with them, as something entirely new, for the purposes of the last election, but without the slightest intention of giving any effect to it. I would like to know what facts there are to justify such assertions as these?

HON. MR. SCOTT—The votes of the House of Commons.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Who is it that has constantly, ever since I have had anything to do with politics, been anxious to promote reciprocity with the United States and to keep up friendly commercial relations with our neighbours? I say that it is the Conservative party. That party, from the very first, seized every opportunity that offered

itself to endeavour to extend friendly commercial relations with the United States; and I say that it is entirely in earnest in the present movement to place our relations with the United States on a better footing, and will spare no exertion to do so. I think I have as much right to say that as my hon. friend has to impute to the Government intentions and motives of which neither he nor any other man can know anything with certainty. I appeal to facts; my hon. friend appeals to suppositions which are in his mind as to what is passing in the minds of the Government, and which no man outside of the Government can know. To say that the Government is not sincere, without proof of insincerity, is no more than an assertion, which certainly does not come from the best authority, and I can only contradict it; and I suppose those who think with my hon. friend from Ottawa will give just as much weight to my contradiction as I give, and as we give, to the assertion of my hon. friend that we do not mean anything by these negotiations. But aside from my assertion, the facts as to the actual course of events since reciprocity was first talked of, establishes that the policy of the Government has been exactly the reverse of that which my hon. friend attributes to them. Perhaps before long an opportunity will offer to support, by the citation of actual events, the truth of the assertion I now make. I do not think this is a proper opportunity to go fully into these questions, but probably before the session is over, we shall have another opportunity of discussing this very point, namely, what the policy of the Government has been in the past, and what grounds we have for prognosticating what will be their policy in the future. Now, with regard to Newfoundland, surely my hon. friend from Ottawa does not mean what he said literally?

HON. MR. SCOTT—Yes; my point is this: that the Canadian Government, when they found that a treaty was being effected between the United States and Newfoundland, wired to Lord Knutsford, stating it would place Canada at a disadvantage in making a treaty with the United States if the proposed treaty between Newfoundland and the United States was consummated.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend is