

dollars, and that it would be true economy to withdraw our ambassador altogether from England. Sir, that is not our policy. We commenced at once. In the first place, we went to a nation on this side of the Atlantic, and we have now got the official—the not ostentatious, but to a great extent the expressed assistance of Her Majesty's representative at the Court of Brazil, and we now have a line running monthly between Canada and Brazil, and although that trade is in its infancy, I think the indications are clear that one of our best markets in the future will be Brazil. The commodities of the two countries are of such diverse nature that we can profitably send our productions to Brazil and receive hers in exchange. Then, Sir, considering, in the language of these resolutions, that our interests are of greater volume and value than they were before, we took the step of appointing Sir A. T. Galt, a gentleman well known in Canada, a gentleman who has held a distinguished position in the Canadian Parliament, who has been a Minister of the Crown, and has administered the finances of Canada for a number of years. We sent that gentleman to England, notwithstanding the reproaches of the waste of money involved in the appointment. He has been there ever since, and, Sir, he has done good service, notwithstanding the remarks of the hon. gentleman who moved this resolution, that all our negotiations have been unsuccessful whenever they have been opened with foreign countries. That is a mistake. The first thing we did was, through Sir A. T. Galt, to apply to Her Majesty's Government to strengthen his hands and authorize him to go to these countries. He first went to Spain, and Mr. West, now the very able ambassador at Washington, then ambassador at the Court of Madrid, was specially instructed to assist him in every possible way, and to put him in direct communication with the Government of Spain. Of course any official arrangement would have to be signed by the accredited Minister of England at Madrid. No other signature would give validity to a treaty, because treaties are not made between colonies and a foreign country, but between two nations. Any arrangement that Sir A. T. Galt as our agent might have made must have been countersigned and approved by the ambassador to give it validity and effect as a treaty, and of course it had to be ratified by the Government of the Mother Country who undertook the great responsibility of sanctioning it or disapproving it. Sir Alexander Galt, our agent, was in communication with the Spanish Government, and he made great progress there. Signor Camaras, then First Minister of Spain, and a great statesman, was in power at the opening of the negotiations. We did not think at first when the instructions were given to Sir Alexander Galt, that it would open so large a question as the establishment of trade between Spain, the Mother Country and Canada. We commenced more modestly and more practically by asking, through the British Government, with the consent of the Foreign Office and of the Imperial Government, for leave to enter into direct negotiations with Spain, in order to open up a trade with Cuba and Porto Rico and the Spanish colonies in America, and that was at once granted; but Signor Camaras stated that he would prefer, now that propositions had been made, that negotiations should be made wider and that the negotiating parties should deal not only with the Cuban trade but with the trade between European Spain and Canada. Negotiations were afterwards suspended not only with Canada but with England until the Cuban representatives had been elected. By the Spanish system, as well as by the French system, their colonies have direct representation in the Cortez and Chamber of Deputies of the two nations, and the Cuban representatives to the Cortez had not arrived, and the Minister said those Cuban representatives would be consulted on the various questions before direct negotiations would be entered upon. By the time the Cuban members arrived, or rather before it, one of

those political revolutions which occur so frequently in Spain took place, and Signor Camaras was unseated, and a period of semi-anarchy, not in a warlike but a political sense, or rather not a period of anarchy but of paralysis occurred in the struggle between the contending parties, and Signor Camaras' successors were not at all in favor of enlarging commercial relations either with England or Canada. If Sir Alexander Galt failed in his praiseworthy and able attempts to secure an arrangement between Spain and her colonies and Canada, the failure was an equal failure on the part of England, because Spain refused to negotiate either with the Mother Country or with Canada. But we ought not to be discouraged by obstructions of that kind, and Sir Alexander Galt has closely watched the various political currents and especially the various changes of political disposition in Spain on economic questions, and he has lost no opportunity of pressing the subject on the attention of the Spanish Minister, because having once got the right to communicate with them, he keeps that up either by communications with Spain or more directly or more indirectly through the Spanish Minister, in London. Although I have not authority to state officially, because I have it not officially, Sir Alexander Galt stated in one of his letters to me that the Spanish Ambassador was exceedingly anxious—personally, of course—and when he speaks personally, he speaks in his representative as well as his personal character—to see the development of trade between the two countries, and he told him, not officially, that it was his intention at an early day to come to Canada in order to see this country, ascertain its production and resources, and aid us in obtaining a treaty. So we felt we must do as Lincoln said, keep pegging away until we succeed. So with respect to France. France is now an intensely protectionist country, and England cannot renew her commercial treaty with her. England's offers have been refused unless she makes concessions, which she declines to make. An unfortunate circumstance occurred which might have occurred with any Government or Department. Our request that the duty of 40 francs a ton on Canadian ships, should be reduced to 2 francs, would have been acceded to if it had not been that Austria gave notice to every nation with which it had commercial treaties that they were to be terminated, and on that account the whole negotiations failed. Now, however, France by a general law allows Canadian ships to enter at the same rate of duty per ton, namely, 2 francs, as ships built in England, the United States, or elsewhere. So we only suffered a short and temporary inconvenience in that sense. Sir Alexander Galt has several times gone to Paris for the purpose of carrying on direct negotiations, and as in Spain so in France, Lord Lyons was instructed to offer every aid, to give the whole force of any influence that England might be supposed to have with France, to carrying out the wishes of Canada for direct negotiations, and for the interchange of commodities under an arranged system of Tariff without reference to England; and Sir Alexander Galt as our agent was placed in direct communication with the various Ministers of Finance and of Trade and Commerce there, whether Mr. Girard, the great protectionist, or his successor or M. Gambetta, who is as great a Free Trader as he dare be without running counter to the general feelings of the Government and the people of France. Sir Alexander Galt has communicated with them, and we hope he will be able to make an arrangement, and a promising sign is that the Ministers of France have expressed themselves strongly in favor of adopting joint action, whereby we would have a line of steamers running between France and Canada, just as we have now between Canada and Brazil. And Sir Alexander Galt says, that he thinks that proposition will be carried out, and if carried out it will result in a trade which will so attract the attention of the French