

House was one of that deputation—to secure better trade relations between the two countries, and they received precisely the same treatment that those who represented the Conservative government had met with when they went to Washington. In plain language, they were snubbed, and snubbed to such an extent that the Liberal leader declared that they would never make any overtures to the United States again. They adhered to that policy until Mr. Taft became president, and Congress had passed an Act placing a tariff upon the statute-book, which, if it had been put in force against this country, would have been more injurious to the people of the United States than it would have been to Canadians who had articles to export. So thoroughly impressed was the President of the United States with this fact that he induced this government—I think I am safe in using that expression—to send a gentleman there to interview the President—I refer to the editor of the 'Globe.' I may be in error, but I am under the impression that he was sent to Washington by the Canadian government and the interview he had with the president resulted in the president asking the Canadian ministers to meet him to see if some arrangement could not be come to, by which he would not be compelled to put the Aldrich tariff in operation as against our tariff. We have the result in this Bill that we are now asked to ratify. Canada was in a position to teach the United States a lesson, and a very severe one. If the principle of free trade, or extension of trade, were not still strongly held by the present ministers and they were not determined if possible to secure an entry to the United States market at a lower tariff, they never would have yielded. They had the ball at their own feet, and should have kept it there. The bringing into force of the present tariff of the United States as against our tariff, would have tended more to affect the people of the United States than it would the people of Canada.

I frankly admit that some articles that we export to the United States would have been affected to a considerable extent, but not to the extent that it would have

injured their own people. The Republican party, through their president, knew very well what the result of bringing a tariff of that kind into force in the United States would have been upon that party at the next election, and it accounts for the president's anxiety to find an excuse for not bringing the United States Tariff Act into force. They found the Canadian government too ready, in my opinion, to accede to his wishes, to the disadvantage of Canada, and to the advantage of the United States. I am not going to detail all the steps that were taken by the present government in order to meet the wishes and views of the president and the people of the United States. That is not necessary. All readers who study political events must know the humiliating position we placed ourselves in by bowing and submitting to the will of the President of the United States under the circumstances. I said last session that I should have been pleased to see Canada maintain the position that the premier had avowed to be their policy, of never seeking any further concessions from the United States. The repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty placed Canada in the position she occupies to-day. If we show a bold front towards our neighbour on the question of the tariff whenever it affects ourselves and affects them, we will be held in much greater respect by our neighbours. It would have been more to the honour of this country, than to have submitted to their demand. Probably my views are the result of the strong opinions I hold on trade questions, which are not like the views of the hon. gentleman who leads this House, though he has been compelled from circumstances to father a protectionist policy to some extent. Having reduced the tariff on some articles they fall back incorrectly upon the declaration that it is a revenue tariff exclusively. Another humiliating position in which I think it has placed us is this: under the French tariff certain articles therein enumerated could be brought into this country at a lower rate of duty than the same class of articles imported from the United States. That is what induced the statesmen of the United States to say to us: 'you have entered into a treaty with a foreign country by which

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