

COMMERCIAL UNION.

The Hon. Mr. Longley had given previous notice of his intention of moving the following resolutions:

Whereas, The Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, member of congress from Ohio, has introduced into the house of representatives at Washington a bill, which, in effect, is designed to secure unrestricted commercial relations between the United States and Canada, which bill will be brought before the next meeting of the United States congress for consideration;

And whereas, Such unrestricted commercial relations between this country and the United States would be of the greatest possible advantage to the various industries of this province, and meet in a large measure the difficulties of our present position;

Be it therefore resolved, That this house, representing the people of Nova Scotia, declares its approval of the objects sought to be attained by the said bill of Mr. Butterworth, and expresses the hope that it may be adopted by the congress of the United States, as promoting the commercial advantages of the people of this province, and tending, if approved by the government and parliament of Great Britain, to cement friendly relations between the English speaking people of the British empire and the United States.

On Tuesday, May 2nd, he moved their adoption in a speech of which the following is the official short-hand report. The reason the matter was not pressed to a division is that no opportunity had been afforded for moving the resolutions until the last day but one of the sitting, and the press of other routine business prevented ample discussion:

I rise, Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of moving the resolutions of which I gave notice a few days ago on the subject of the bill introduced by Mr. Butterworth in the congress of the United States respecting trade with Canada. At this late period of the session and for reasons which it is not necessary for me now to explain, I do not propose to press this matter to a division in the house. Of course, having moved the resolutions, they have to be subject to the rule of the house, but so far as I am personally concerned it is not my intention this session to bring the house to a division in relation to them, but I feel that the importance of the subject is so great and so wide reach-

ing that it is necessary for me to make a few observations which will explain the object and purpose of the resolutions, and perhaps by means of the publicity given to the proceedings and debates of the house these remarks may have the effect of explaining the purport of the resolutions to the people throughout the province of Nova Scotia. Let me say, in beginning, that, every person in this house is aware that the question of intimate and unrestricted trade relations with the people of the United States is a matter of the first moment to the people of Nova Scotia, and not only to the people of Nova Scotia but to the people of every province in the Dominion of Canada. There has been ever since the union, a perpetual question in regard to confederation, so far as the province of Nova Scotia is concerned. That same feeling of dissatisfaction prevails to a less extent in other provinces, but in Nova Scotia it is heightened and intensified, I suppose, by the fact that this province was brought into confederation without the consent of the people, which was not the case in regard to the other maritime provinces, but I do not imagine that the mere fact of a constitutional blunder having been committed in 1867, would forever create a feeling of dissatisfaction unless there were other difficulties in the way of the successful working of confederation, and, in my judgment, the difficulties with regard to confederation were difficulties entirely of a commercial character. I stand here to-day and say, as I said in 1885, that the provinces composing the Dominion of Canada have the wealth and the population and the resources to create a great nationality with a destiny to which every one can look forward with pride and pleasure. If merely and only wealth and population and resources were required to produce that result there would be no difficulty, but the difficulty is that there is no natural trade between Nova Scotia and Ontario, or between Ontario and Manitoba, or between British Columbia and any other section of the Dominion. The real difficulty is this want of reciprocal trade relations between different sections of the country. Ontario is a great and a prosperous province, and if that province and the maritime provinces were in proper juxtaposition they would be of use to each other, but as they are, the trade of Ontario is of no consequence to the maritime provinces, and the trade of the maritime provinces is of little consequence to Ontario. That, I hold, to be the fundamental objection to confederation, and that