

if he has not read it, he ought to have read it before he came to a conclusion—and should study it before he attempts again to lecture an intelligent body like this, and the people of this country—that the most eminent members of the bar in the United States have given the same opinion and I know that some of the most prominent members of the bar in this country hold the same opinion in reference to the repeal of that section of the treaty. I am not speaking my own individual opinions. In the negotiations with the late Mr. Blaine and Mr. Foster, the present Secretary of State, I read that report to them and stated that if the opinions expressed by the gentlemen who composed that committee—and they were the most eminent men representing these bodies in the United States—were correct, the United States Government had no right to find fault with anything we might do in reference to the management of the tolls of our canals.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I have never heard before that this Government supposed that the clauses had been repealed.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—There are a great many things the hon. gentleman, I was convinced from the speech that he made yesterday, had not read and does not know. I am telling the hon. gentleman the views taken on the subject in the United States, and I am telling this House the views that are entertained by eminent legal gentlemen in this country. It is true, we have not acted on that view, but I say that if leading statesmen in the United States hold that view on this particular question—they have no right to find fault with any action that we might take, even if we were to shut up the canals. That same report used this language, as near as I can recall it—that they were using Canada's canals at the sufferance of the Government of Canada. It is not our policy, it was not our desire to deprive the United States of the use of these canals. We are not oblivious of the fact that we have interests at stake just as great as they have; nor are we forgetful of the advantages that accrue from the use of all these canals on terms of equality, both by the United States and by Canada. The hon. gentleman, unintentionally, I think, misled the House.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, I did not mislead the House.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—That infers that the hon. gentleman knows what impression was left upon the minds of the members of the House, when he made his speech. He may be a clairvoyant for aught I know, and able to read the minds of others, and thereby know the views and sentiments held by each member of the Senate, but I repeat the impression left on this House, I will not say that it was left on the House, because I think the House too intelligent—but the impression attempted to be left was that we gave no rebate upon American vessels passing through the canals discharging at Ogdensburgh, while a Canadian vessel did get the rebate, even if she discharged her cargo there.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I made my remarks as clear as possible.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—The impression was left on the minds of members as I have indicated. What are the facts? If an American vessel passed through the Welland Canal and goes direct to Montreal with her cargo, even though she discharges or tranships it at Kingston, and that cargo is exported from Canada, she receives the eighteen cents rebate.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I stated so positively over and over again.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—That may have been the intention of the hon. gentleman, but I repeat it, a different impression was left on the House, and I am stating what that impression was.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman must not misrepresent me. I am not accustomed to being misrepresented in the manner in which the hon. gentleman has tried over and over to do it to-day.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—I have no desire to misrepresent the hon. gentleman. I am not doing it intentionally. I appeal to the judgment of this House as to whether I am misrepresenting him by what I have said. If the House says that I have misrepresented him in any particular, I shall readily apologize for having done so. It would be improper for me to do so under any circumstances, and particularly so now, this being the first opportunity that I have had of addressing this honourable body. I desire to place before the House and the country the facts as they really exist: