

he adhered to the principle which parliament had adopted. In 1875 when we provided the future constitution which should be given to the new territories it was specially laid down by parliament that it was better then and there to settle the school question and remove it for ever from being a source of discord in the new territories. My hon. friend's voice was silent; I assumed therefore that he concurred. There was no vote taken upon it, and there was no dissenting voice raised to it in 1875 in the House of Commons. There was in this Chamber. I had charge of the Bill; the whole subject was thoroughly threshed out and we carried it by a very narrow majority. The Liberal party, to a very considerable extent, deserted the leadership of Alex. Mackenzie and but for the support of the Conservative party, the Bill could not have been carried. I think therefore it is regrettable that my hon. friend has not been consistent in the course which he laid out for himself some thirty years ago. His career has been a long and distinguished one, and I should have been glad had he seen his way to observe the same principle in 1906 that he adopted in 1870.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I think I can show that I was quite consistent.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I have said all I am going to say on that subject.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—The hon. gentleman is speaking for himself only.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I now come to the close of the address criticised by my hon. friend. In reference to the treaty with Japan I note that in another place the government have been criticised because they did not acquiesce in the treaty between Japan and the United Kingdom at the time that Canada had the opportunity. The treaty was made in 1894, and an amendment was made to it in 1895. The outlying provinces of the empire, including Canada, were given two years within which to adhere. For a year and nine months of that period the Conservative government was in power. They only ceased to govern Canada in the summer of 1896, so that we simply followed in their footsteps in declining to become a party to the treaty.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

We had strong reasons—stronger than they had—because at that time we had decided to grant a preference to the mother country, and, as the law of preference then stood, Germany and Belgium had the right, under an existing treaty, to any preference that might be granted by a colony to the mother country. Under the most favoured nation clause any countries with which we had treaties would have the same right to the preference we desired to give Great Britain, and for that reason we declined then to be a party to the treaty with Japan. Since that time the Belgian and German treaties have been set aside, and new treaties have been made with the mother country to which we are not parties, so that we are now perfectly free to make a treaty with Japan, and we have done so. The treaty document has not yet been received, but I understand it has been sanctioned. The advantage we gain is this: Japan like some other countries has a maximum and a minimum tariff. Under the treaty we come in under the minimum tariff which confers certain advantages.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Do I understand that the colonies are to have the advantage of the minimum tariff?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Only Canada. The treaty that has been made was made wholly at the instance of Canada. We applied to come in under the treaty between the mother country and Japan, but the Japanese said 'no that treaty is made and passed and gone; if you desire to come in on similar lines, we will consider the propriety of a new arrangement.' We acquiesced in that proposal, and we practically adopted the treaty that now exists between Japan and Great Britain which gives Great Britain the benefit of the minimum tariff.

In reference to that clause which relates to the rapid destruction of the forests by fire, my hon. friend concurred in the propriety of any policy that might in future be adopted to save our forests. Those of us who have given any attention or thought to this question must feel very great regret at the fearful sacrifice that has been made by the provinces of the Dominion, in the wanton destruction in earlier years, of their forests. My attention was drawn very forcibly to this matter fifty years ago, repre-