

April 3, 1873

This was followed up by a declaration by the Board of Trade of the United States, made at the meeting at which the hon. member for Montreal was present, in favour of the renewal of reciprocal relations between the two countries, and the equally unanimous resolution to memorialize Congress for the appointment of a Commissioner to negotiate with us for that purpose. The Board of Trade of Canada had in the same spirit memorialized this Government to apply to the Crown to appoint a Commissioner to act with the Commissioner of the United States to the same end.

This Government had come to the conclusion not to exhibit too much anxiety about this matter, as to induce them to think that it was a question of necessity with us, that we should have free intercourse with them, or otherwise we must become a part of themselves. The Government did not, therefore, think it necessary to take any action on the matter, although they still held the same opinions in regard to the matter, but as soon as the United States took into consideration the means of making effectual the plan that had been submitted to them by their own Board of Trade, the Government would be prepared cordially to act with them to the end.

In view of all this he did not think any one could consistently come forward and say that the obtaining of reciprocity was a hopeless matter. On the other hand, he believed that all the people of Canada and the United States desired would seem to be consummated. (*Hear, hear, and loud cheers.*)

Mr. JOLY said he would get up in his place and speak his mind at any time, and state his opinions freely and frankly. He did not think there was anything in his remarks calling for such language as had been used by the hon. member. He would tell that hon. gentleman that he would dare to get up and speak his mind when at any time or any place his moral conviction called upon him to do so, and he would also dare to get up and tell the hon. gentleman that he and his colleagues had sacrificed the commercial advantage of the country in order to keep themselves in power. (*Cheers.*)

It was all very well for the hon. gentleman to get up and raise his fist like a hammer (*laughter*), as if when he brought it down it were to crush to pieces all those who dared to take opposite view from his own. (*Laughter and cheers.*) He took the liberty of telling the hon. gentleman that it was not to be so, even if the gentlemen on this side were in a minority of the House. (*Hear, hear, and cheers.*) He (Mr. Joly) did not care whether he was with the majority or minority; but when he saw the way in which the majority in this House treated the proposals of the minority, he was proud to belong to the minority.

He had always maintained in that House the position of a man who desired nothing more than what rightfully belonged to him in his honourable position as a private member. As a leader had never put down a member of the other side by asking him why he dared to state his opinion upon any subject. (*Hear, hear.*) What he had to say he said like a man, and what he had stated as his opinion he again repeated; that the canal policy of the present Government was inimical to the best interest of the Dominion.

In answer to the question of the hon. member, who wanted to know if after his blatant exhibition, and after the tremendous force with which he brought his fist down upon the desk (*laughter*), he still had no hope of the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, he had the reply that he saw little more sign of it than before, notwithstanding the personal interest the hon. member had exhibited in it.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON again took exception to the course adopted by the hon. Minister. He was characterizing the action of this Parliament in terms not consistent with the rights of this House and it was for this reason he had called him to order.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER: I referred to the last Parliament.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON said the House knew no distinction between the Parliaments, as Parliament was always supposed to exist. He was infringing the rights of Parliament, and that in a very offensive way; and what was his charge? It was that Parliament had dealt a very unpatriotic blow to the best interest of their country at a critical moment, when the Minister of Justice (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) was at Washington in the capacity of serving these same best interests. He gathered from the remarks of the hon. Minister that he had reference to what was known as the National policy, which had been rescinded by this House against the will of hon. gentlemen opposite.

He (Hon. Mr. Holton) held that if that were unpatriotic in the last Parliament, and opposed to the ideas of the hon. gentlemen opposite, their first endeavour should have been to get Parliament to revise that vote, and if they had not been able to receive support to have resigned the positions they held as responsible Ministers of the Crown. (*Hear, hear, and cheers.*) He gave, he confessed, a certain measure of support to the Washington Treaty, but he would not have submitted to the surrender of the St. Lawrence by the Minister of Justice in which he maintained was thrown away the only official weapon he had in his hand for obtaining the much desired reciprocal free trade from the United States.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG (Montreal West) said that in 1848 he was at Washington and again in 1853, at both of which times he had made efforts to secure such a reciprocity as would be beneficial to both countries. In 1864 he again made efforts to secure the continuation of the Treaty, and put himself in communication with the British Minister at Washington, and through him with Mr. Stewart, the Secretary of State, with a view to the same and, as well as taking the trouble to speak to every member of Congress, holding in his hand the speech of the Governor General stating that our canals were enlarged so that vessels of one thousand tons could go through them. He also said the western members were in favour of the establishment of reciprocity to a man.

In an official letter addressed in 1855, to the late Mr. Lemieux, Chief Commissioner of Public Works, he said, "I believe it is in the power of the people and Government of Canada to adopt measures which will enable us to compete successfully for the carrying trade of the West, and make our public works a source of great and