

member well, however, our failure to secure it in 1874, when a then distinguished member of this body went to Washington to negotiate a reciprocity treaty, and the conditions which he and his party were willing to give, although they were considered too large and not in the interests of this country.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD—They would not be approved of, even to-day, by the Dominion.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—True, we have become self-reliant. Even after all the negotiations, we failed—entirely failed—and we had it then from the leader of that party in the other House, that we had humiliated ourselves enough; that we should not again put ourselves in a false position; that he should never consent to our humbling ourselves any more and asking concessions from the United States in the manner we had done. That was the condition of affairs at that time, and since then has there been any reason why we should approach the United States and ask for reciprocity, even in the natural products of the country? When this country adopted our present system of protection eight years ago, what did we do? By Act of Parliament we provided that whenever the United States were willing to abolish or reduce the duties on natural products of the country, our Government should do the same. That inducement has been held out to the United States for the last eight years—a standing invitation to extend the commercial relations of the two countries, and they have failed to accept it. Can the Government of Canada be reproached, or can it be said that the Government are hostile to reciprocal trade in the natural products of the two countries? I say no, because the country knows well that Parliament has given that authority: and that policy has not been challenged, but has been endorsed on two occasions by the people; therefore my hon. friend does not state the case fairly. He would impress upon the country a view which is not sustained by the facts when he would lead the people to believe that this Government is opposed to a reciprocity treaty. I probably should not have risen at all on this occasion, but when statements were pro-

mulgated by my hon. friend which have a tendency to mislead the minds of the people, and make them believe as facts things that do not exist, I felt myself bound to expose such falacies. I do not intend to follow the whole discussion of my hon. friend. It seems to me that although there is prosperity and substantial progress in the country my hon. friend from Halifax sees nothing but adversity and black ruin everywhere. As regards the harvest he has very little to say, or as to the prosperity that prevails amongst the farmers. I know that that prosperity is widespread throughout the Dominion, and it is admitted that agriculture is the basis of all our industries—our very existence depends upon it. The manufacturers have to depend largely on the raw products of the farm, and although we have had a good harvest, my hon. friend had not a word of encouragement on that subject, but says that the prosperity of the Maritime Provinces is diminished. I fail to see it. He refers to the lands in Nova Scotia as having depreciated in value. It may be the case in Halifax, but the prosperity of Halifax is not the prosperity of the whole Province. Halifax at one time had a monopoly of the trade of Nova Scotia; the whole Province came to trade with Halifax; but now each little town imports direct from the Old Country instead of buying from Halifax merchants, and can sell cheaper than the Halifax merchants.

HON. MR. BOTSFORD—And small villages are rising everywhere?

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Yes, and they are flourishing. I say that the prosperity of Lunenburg never was greater than it is at the present day, although money is scarce and in demand. Property in Lunenburg which ten years ago was not worth \$1 is to-day worth \$10. Our fisheries have been very productive; but the trouble is we have had poor markets for our fish in consequence of the abrogation of the Fishery Clauses of the Washington Treaty by the United States, and depression of trade—and sugars in the West Indies. I believe however that the time will come when the United States will have to crave of us the privilege of resorting to our fishing grounds.

HON. MR. KAULBACH.