

EETING

whatever our objections at least ought to be upon the question of to be consistent with right. This general may be moved with to say further, that I of the representatives t, and hope there will the country that the l expression to their information and guid-

what they have signed. It is not a document to which I am committed; it is not a document which any Plenipotentiary of these United States has signed on behalf of my administration. It is for you to say how far it meets our necessities, or comes short of what we might reasonably expect in a Treaty of this nature." (Hear, hear.) Would any one for a moment contend that even though the British Plenipotentiaries had signed the Treaty *pro forma*, (no doubt expecting reciprocity in signature on the other side,) and that while the Senate of the United States may add or alter, while the Press of the United States will freely discuss it,—this Board, the people of this country, the Parliament of Canada, are not to be permitted to have a word to say in regard to the details of this Treaty? (No, no.) We, Sir, can accept no such doctrine; for, while we rejoice in the growing sentiment in favor of Reciprocity, we should be still more delighted with a Treaty which would be generally acceptable and useful and not prejudicial to any of the great interests of the country. (Cheers.) Feeling that such is the case, and that the so-called Treaty needs some improvement in detail, I beg leave to move as follows:—

1st.—That this Board reiterates its frequently expressed opinion in favour of a Treaty of Reciprocity between the United States and Canada.

2nd.—That while the document known as the new Reciprocity Treaty contains many desirable provisions, particularly those which relate to the exchange of natural productions between the United States and Canada, and the reciprocal extension of maritime privileges, it is, notwithstanding, defective in the privileges secured for Canada, which are not nearly so valuable as those conceded to the United States; and that this Board by means of a proper Committee, or otherwise, do take steps to represent to the Government of Canada those aspects of the treaty in which it is unfair to Canada, or might operate prejudicially to Canadian interests. (Applause.)

This Treaty, Sir, may be regarded as largely made up of three distinct features. It deals with the reciprocal extension of maritime rights and privileges; with the exchange of natural productions; and with the exchange of manufactured articles. We must ask ourselves is it a fair Treaty; is it even substantially fair in each of these three features? (Hear, hear.) It requires scarcely any argument, Sir, to show that it is not an equal Treaty in regard to the exchange of maritime rights and privileges; for on the one hand certain valuable privileges are absolutely given away, and on the other the proposed return is only provided for in a hypothetical and uncertain manner. It is Canada which makes the absolute disposal; it is the United States which makes the hypothetical return; therefore the Treaty is not fair and equal in this respect. (Great cheering.) The Government of Canada are absolutely to dispose of certain valuable rights and privileges; they are to bind themselves to additional outlay in order to enable them to make the privileges the more valuable; they are to be limited in time in order to do so, and if they fail, to say nothing of the danger of international complications arising therefrom, they are to be subjected to a penalty. But, on the other hand, Sir, the Government of the United States are only to use their influence to secure a portion of the return to which we are deemed entitled. (Cheers.) And if that influence should fail in securing that use of the

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atly wished that some in Trade, Commerce proposed Treaty, had iments of this Board but as no such resolu- one, and shortly to be motion before the on of the views enter- acter of the proposed illustrated his position out a simpler process ds barley across the d that such exchanges Sir; but as Ohio coal ke off the duty placed ettlled. [Applause.] board it has frequently s similar to those con-; now that a draft ng more than express the world that we are that Treaty, if such (No, no, and cheers.) Reciprocity, for a fair ted States cannot but r to reach provisions ined in both countries cism. I express this ed States, in transmit- criticism in regard to n of the Senate, this on their part—this is