

and conciliation towards them. Such a course will, I believe, commend itself to the great majority of the House. (Hear, hear.) We have to consider, also, our position towards the United States. We are not insensible to the circumstances in which Canada has been placed in consequence of the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty, and the unwise and restricted legislation adopted by our neighbours on the other side of the line. (Hear.) We are not insensible to the fact that many of the principal products of this country have by the imposition of high duty been almost prohibited from entering their markets. The coal trade in Nova Scotia we know is languishing, the men working only two or three days in the week. Our lumber is subject to a heavy duty, and our grain and fish are in the same position. With respect to fish indeed, the duty is so high that even if we imposed a license fee at the rate of \$4 per ton on American vessels—as we have been urged to do, not only abroad but by a Committee of the House—that would still fall far short of the duty they impose on our fish. We feel also that our trade on the lakes has been subjected to excessive charges when our vessels enter American ports. We know that while all their agricultural products come in free, ours are almost excluded from their markets. It may be that hereafter we may be compelled to adopt a policy different from that which we are now pursuing. But the Government have thought that anything like retaliatory or restrictive measures at this moment would not be conducive to the best interests of the country. We ought rather to show an example of liberality, and as far as we can relieve commerce and our mutual intercourse of all trammels and restrictions. (Hear, hear.) The House is aware that one great obstacle to the renewal of free intercourse between ourselves and the people of the United States has lately been removed. I allude to the almost entire sweeping away of taxes on their internal industry. We think we see in that an indication of a less restrictive policy. The feelings of irritation which had something to do in prompting the action of Congress touching the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty have we trust now passed away. We see that they have recently been instituting enquiry as to the manner in which American interests were affected by the abrogation of that Treaty; and by the information laid before Congress, it is evident that the American people are alive to the fact that this restricted intercourse is operating injuriously to them. The coal and manufacturing interests in New York, Boston and other Atlantic cities, are clamorous for a repeal of the duty on Nova Scotia coal. Other important interests begin to feel the pinching occasioned by the restrictive policy adopted by the American Government. (Hear, hear.) We do not at all under estimate the importance of having at our door a market of 40,000,000 of people; we feel that in being debarred from that market we have suffered something and may suffer more. Yet it has not been an unpurged evil. It forced on the enterprising people of this country the necessity of seeking other markets, and the result of this has been in the highest degree gratifying. Many of their products which formerly went to the United States have found other and more remunerative markets. The exports of Canadian products to other countries have gone on increasing in a very large proportion, although

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