

upon the table of the House of Commons at Ottawa the night before last.

The value of Canadian importations from the United States of green fruits, seeds, trees and other articles placed on the free list from April 13, 1888, until Feb. 1, 1889, was \$831,399. The amount of revenue which would have been collected upon such importations if they had not been placed on the free list is \$292,676. The value of such importations from the United States for the corresponding period of the previous year was \$498,183. The value of Canada's exports to the United States of these articles from April 13, 1888, to Feb. 1, 1889, was \$1,486,022, of which apples were valued at \$1,315,452.

Since 1886 numerous attempts have been made by the Canadian people to induce your Government to resume these more intimate trade relations, which seemed so beneficial to both countries, but without success ; and the alternative policy which has been adopted with a view to bind together more closely the various Provinces which extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific, would probably still have been silently persisted in, had there not been a disposition shown on the part of some of your eminent statesmen (notably the Honorable Robert R. Hitt, Mr. Wharton Barker, the Honorable Mr. Butterworth, and others), to discuss the question of closer commercial relations ; and especially in connection with the Fisheries dispute, which has been so fruitful a source of irritation and annoyance.

While the Government of Canada were somewhat reticent upon the subject ; what we conceived to be indications on your side of a more favorable consideration of the question, gave rise to a discussion of it from one end of Canada to the other. No agitation that I am aware of ever matured more rapidly in the minds of the people of Canada than this did ; and if, during the past few months, it has not received that prominence which might have been expected, it has been due to

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and other unfavorable indications of the minds of your public men upon this side, which, however, we are disposed to believe, were more the outcome of political exigency than as reflecting the minds of your people generally.

I hope I may be at liberty to trace ; and that the people of Canada may be warranted in assuming from the fact that you have been kind enough to extend this invitation to me to address you, because I have