

continued on raw sugars imported for manufacture in the Dominion. Not only does this large amount remain in the pockets of the people, but sugar has become so cheap that it is now within the reach of all, and the quantity used has increased in a remarkable manner. It is gratifying to find that the negotiations respecting the seal fisheries in Behring Sea have resulted in the appointment of a Commission to investigate and report on that subject, and we trust that the result of such a course may remove all causes of irritation existing between the Governments of the different nationalities whose vessels are pursuing that important branch of the fisheries, in which the people of this Dominion are so largely interested. The settlement of the boundary line of Alaska along the southern edge of British Columbia has been the subject of correspondence between Governments now since 1872. It was estimated at that time that it would cost from one and a-half to two millions of dollars to define and mark it, but whatever the outlay may be it is a question that should be settled. Salvage and wrecking on the inland waters of the Dominion is another subject which engaged the attention of the Ministers during their recent trip to Washington, and when the report of the arrangements made with respect to this question has been laid before us we will be better able to discuss that important subject. In this connection I have no doubt but the Ministers referred to the still more important question of the coasting trade. Our people in the Maritime Provinces would be quite ready to reciprocate in that matter, and when the United States opens its coasting trade to Colonial and British ships we will readily respond and grant them equal privileges on our sea coast. There was a time when we had a treaty with the Americans which admitted them practically to the privileges our own fishermen enjoy. They were permitted to land and tranship their fish to purchase bait and supplies. While we were satisfied that this should continue, America terminated that arrangement just as she at an earlier period abrogated the Reciprocity Treaty. In this connection let me refer you for a few moments to a circumstance affecting our trade relations with the United States which occurred some years ago, but which it is well to bear in mind and profit by. On the 17th of March, in the year 1827, John Quincy Adams, then President of the United States, issued a

proclamation, authorized by the Act of Congress, passed 1st March, 1823, declaring that all trade and intercourse between the United States of America and the British colonial possessions should terminate, and was by, from and after the date of such proclamation prohibited. His proclamation also revived the Act of Congress of 18th April, 1818, and 18th May, 1820, which prohibited absolutely the importation or conveyance of any goods into any port of the United States in British vessels. Although that law was in force for a considerable period, the brave colonists, of whom the United Empire loyalists then formed a large portion, did not seem to suffer from that proclamation, of which the McKinley Bill seems to be the degenerate offspring; and as our forefathers grew and flourished, when Brother Jonathan would have no intercourse with them on any conditions, when he prohibited our ships from entering his ports, so our trade at the present day is expanding in volume and our people are flourishing, notwithstanding the hostile tariff of our neighbours across the border. Recent events within the knowledge of your honours have shown that while we are ready to trade with them on fair and equal terms, this country does not want any veiled annexation, whether you call it unrestricted reciprocity or commercial union. We will make our own tariff, without reference to the McKinley Bill, and we will trade with those who are willing to trade with us on equal terms. A few years ago many people thought that we could not exist without reciprocity, but that opinion is now rapidly changing; we have sought and obtained new markets for our productions. On this subject, General J. W. Foster, one of the gentlemen who, with Secretary Blaine, met the Canadian commissioners at Washington recently, in the course of his remarks on reciprocity, made at the annual meeting of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, spoke as follows: "Reciprocity is inseparably united to protection. It is impossible under the system of free trade. It is only when a country maintains a protective tariff that it is in a position to offer to other countries valuable concessions for specific products in return for exceptional favours for its own products." And he went on to state that one of the reasons they did not desire to extend commercial reciprocity treaties to Canadians, as they had done already to tropical countries,