

adopted, they admit there would be no difficulty in obtaining a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. After this admission, all their talk about the hope of the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty was so much idle words.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** said he could not allow the remarks of the hon. gentleman to go to the country without an answer, which in justice to the Government ought to be given. The House was aware of the great anxiety which the Government had shown towards bringing about an improved state of commercial relations with the United States. If there was one fact patent to the country it was that the Government had on all occasions used every means possible to bring about reciprocal trade relations with the United States since the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty.

There was nothing the old Government of Canada, and subsequently the Dominion Government, could do to secure its renewal that they had left undone. A stimulus had been given to foreign trade in this Dominion as one effect of that arrangement. The sentiment of the Government certainly was in favour of inducing reciprocal commerce with the United States, and the Government had been true to that sentiment.

It was hon. gentlemen opposite who, at a moment when the Minister of Justice was engaged in bringing about a policy at Washington for the interest of the Dominion—it was those gentlemen who at that time, and forgetting what was due to themselves and country, had forced upon the Government the rejection of the national policy, which had been most advantageous to both countries. The exclusion of the Americans from our fishing grounds, and the policy of levying duties upon the imports from the United States, had brought the question to a prominent place in the eyes of the people of the United States; and when the Government of Canada was struggling to bring about the freedom of commercial intercourse—at the very time when this Government had a High Commissioner in Washington, and when there was every prospect that he would be successful in bringing about that free and cordial commercial intercourse which was so much desired at the critical moment in the history of Canada, and the interest of reciprocal trade—the hon. gentlemen opposite forgot what was due to themselves, to this House, and to Canada, and struck down by an unpatriotic blow the freedom of commerce, which was on the point of being secured. (*Loud cheers.*)

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON:** The hon. gentleman has no right to characterize the action of this Parliament.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** said he did not refer to the present Parliament; he referred to the last Parliament. It was but right that he should show to this House and to the country that the policy of this Government was not what it had been represented to be by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Joly). The strength of this Government in this House and in the country lay in the fact that

they had to the utmost of their power maintained a steady regard for the commercial interests and relations of the Dominion.

The hon. member had charged them with having forgotten what was due to Canada in bringing about the freedom of commercial intercourse. He denied it point blank, and contended that the reciprocal relations which were lately to have been of immense benefit to Ontario in the sending of their produce to the American market, had been frustrated at the very moment when their success was about to be insured by the action of the last Parliament, despite the efforts of the Government.

There had been some sacrifices of feeling, if not of interest, in endeavouring, by the adoption of the Treaty of Washington, to better these relations with our neighbours, but there was a feeling of bitter political enmity in the minds of our American neighbours towards this country, and the Treaty was the only means left to the Government of Canada for bringing about reciprocal relations.

He was proud to be able to say that the hon. gentleman on the opposite side of the House, in that case, in remembering what was due to the party, had not remembered what was due to his country. He was a gentleman of high character and standing, and the representative of a portion of the great commercial metropolis of this Dominion—he referred to the hon. member for Montreal West (Hon. Mr. Young). He was also glad to say that his hon. friend from Châteauguay (Hon. Mr. Holton) had also stated to the people of this country that the interests of Canada demanded that Treaty.

He (Hon. Mr. Tupper) declared the sentiment of this country was in favour of the Treaty, because, in common with the Government, they say in it the only means of bringing about these reciprocal relations which would be of such immense benefit to both countries. Did the hon. gentleman from Lotbinière (Mr. Joly) fail to see the indications ever since the hour that the Parliament had adopted that Treaty? Did any man who looked upon the signs fail to see that from the very hour of the adoption that Treaty had accomplished the great object which was contended for by its supporters? That it had removed all the political bitterness and asperity which had previously existed on both sides of the line?

Look at the change that had already taken place; look at the action taken by the National Board of Trade of the United States; then Congress did not rise after the adoption of the Treaty was insured, till they had shown that a very different sentiment pervaded that body from that by which it had been animated in previous years, and it reduced largely the duties upon a number of articles imported from the Dominion into the United States. A similar proposition had been ignominiously thrown out before by the very same Congress but action under the genial spirit and sentiment which flowed from the patriotic course of the Parliament of Canada, they determined to make a large reduction of duty upon such articles as agricultural products, lumber and salt.