

very improper act, they announced to the world that negotiations were on foot between them and the United States when there were no negotiations whatever. We have the State papers now. We know that in December they laid the foundation of their proceedings by addressing a letter to the Colonial Secretary, telling him that they were anxious to frame a treaty with the United States, and they named some seven articles which are mentioned in the State paper. Some correspondence passed, but nothing whatever that led up to the announcement made by the Government to the people of this country, nothing to warrant the statement made that negotiations were in progress. The thing was wholly unjustified and unwarranted, and when in a few years more it comes to be written up it will in no degree reflect credit on the gentlemen who, for the time, represented this country. We know very well that the United States Government, through their Secretary of State, denied that any such negotiations were on foot. Mr. Blaine was addressed by Mr. Baker, a member of Congress, and asked whether it was true that the official announcement made by the Government of Canada had any possible justification when a new tariff was being framed. He most positively denied the statement, and said there was no intention of the kind; and he went further, and said that no treaty with Canada would be possible unless it included manufactures as well as agricultural products. We know what followed. The Government of this country, and their supporters all over Canada, proclaimed in the rural constituencies that their policy was to have a market for the farmers; and their policy in the cities and towns, where manufactures existed, was that the National Policy would not be disturbed. That cannot be denied; the speeches are on record, and can be turned up at any time. There they remain, showing the utter inconsistency of the Administration on this important question. Did they treat the Government of the United States and the statesmen of that country with anything like the ordinary courtesy that is usually extended from the public men of one country to the public men of another? They did not. I say it with regret and sorrow. The remarks made about Mr. Blaine and other gentlemen in the United States in the discussion which arose out of this

HON. MR. SCOTT.

treaty question were anything but proper and fitting to be spoken by gentlemen who represent so important a country as Canada. Our interest is to maintain the warmest friendship we can with the people to the south of us. They are much the same as ourselves. One-fifth of our population is now on the other side of the line. We have large interests there, and we share with them, to some extent, their prosperity; because in the past, as every one knows, our greatest trade has been with them. Our trade with the United States the year before last was equal to our trade with all the rest of the world put together, and therefore it was idle for any of our public men to criticise and comment in the manner they did on the motives and conduct of the statesmen of that country. We knew then, and we know very well now, the terms on which we can obtain a treaty with the United States, but it is by the sacrifice of the National Policy. If hon. gentlemen are prepared to come to their senses and admit the National Policy is a failure, we can make a treaty with the United States; but so long as the manufacturers of Canada have to be protected, or the views of the comparatively small number who derive a benefit from the fiscal policy of the country prevail, so long will it be impossible to effect a treaty with the nation to the south of us. So long as the people of Canada do not comprehend what the meaning of the word tariff is, so long will we be held in our present position. Fortunately, the education of the people is going on rapidly, and will be more rapid in the future. They are beginning to understand that tariff means not merely the payment of an increased revenue, but the incidental increase in the price of articles required by the masses, for the benefit of some special manufacturer who has operated under the tariff of the country. That education, I say, is going on rapidly from day to day, and unless the Government of this country recognizes the position, and is prepared to make a treaty in which the whole of the people will have a fair share, it will be absolutely absurd to discuss the probability or possibility of effecting anything at Washington. I need not advert here to the humiliating position occupied by the representatives of Canada when they visited Washington recently. They announced that they were going there last January, three months ago.