

the former additional on the coal consumed by the former. On the subject of coal I know there has been a great deal said ; but my inquiries have led me to the conclusion that, while we receive a very considerable sum from coal imported from the United States and consumed in Ontario, one-half of that sum is paid by the coal producers in the United States. That is my conviction, and we have evidence of it. It is only very recently, in conversation with a gentleman who purchased in the United States 2,000 tons of coal for consumption in Canada, he said that a portion of the coal duty had been paid by the coal producers of the Western States. But, as I said on a former occasion, if the people of the United States were to say to us to-day, or any day, that they would go back to the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, by which the natural products of the two countries would be exchanged free, we would be prepared to agree to that arrangement. But it would be the greatest mistake that any Government could make at this time, while negotiations may be opened at no distant day, while notice may be given by Canada of the abrogation of the Washington Treaty within twelve months, and when there is a desire in the United States on the part of a portion of her people to open negotiations for the free exchange of natural products, it would not only be a mistake, it would be madness, to yield one iota of the vantage ground we now possess. If we were to yield it now we should do that which we would regret for all time to come. Therefore, we are not prepared to offer any proposition for the reduction of the duties now levied on these articles.

#### THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

Sir, the prices have been quoted in Chicago and compared with the prices of wheat in Toronto, and the conclusion has been drawn by some that the Tariff has no effect on the price of wheat in Toronto. But, Sir, an exceptional state of things has existed in the United States for two years. This year especially the holders of wheat have felt that the short crop in the United States and the short crop in Europe would necessarily bring up the price above what it was when the harvest was completed in America. They have been holding for a time wheat at 6 cents per bushel higher than the price brought for that description of article in the Liverpool market, adding the ordinary freight and