

strongly that though we in Canada derived great advantage from the Treaty of 1854, the American people derived still greater advantage from it. I had no objection to that—and was quite ready to renew the old Treaty, or even to extend it largely on fair terms of reciprocity. But I was not willing to ask for renewal as a favor to Canada—I was not willing to offer special inducements for renewal without fair concessions in return—I was not willing that the canals and inland waters of Canada should be made the joint property of the United States and Canada, and be maintained at their joint expense. I was not willing that the customs and excise duties of Canada should be assimilated to the prohibitory rates of the United States—and very especially was I unwilling that any such arrangement should be entered into with the United States, dependant on the frail tenure of reciprocal legislation, repealable at any moment at the caprice of either party. I firmly believed that good as the Reciprocity Treaty had been for Canada—in the event of repeal, we had a commercial policy of our own open to us for adoption not greatly inferior to that we would be deprived of—and unless we had a Treaty for a definite term of years, and on conditions of fair reciprocity, without such embarrassing entanglements as were proposed, I was willing that the Treaty of 1854 should be repealed, and each country left to follow its own course. My colleagues determined to proceed in the manner I deprecated; I could not be responsible for such a policy; and to avoid responsibility for it, I resigned office. The Government sent deputies to Washington to obtain, if possible, legislative reciprocity—they did all they could to obtain it, but without success, and the Treaty of 1854 came to an end on the 17th of March, 1866. Honorable gentlemen,—I have not changed my opinions from what they were in December, 1865. I still believe that Canada largely profited by the Treaty of 1854, but that the Americans profited by it still more; and we all know now—for we have tested it—that Canada has a commercial policy of her own, but little, if at all, inferior to that she was deprived of in 1866. Not-

withstanding this I am still strongly in favor of a commercial treaty with the United States for a definite number of years—and so long as it was just and profitable to Canada, I should be all the better pleased the more profitable it proved to our American friends. It is always well to have two strings to one's bow—it cannot possibly be injurious to secure access to a market of forty millions of people, at the price of permitting our own people to buy some of their wares from them free from customs duties. Treaties of the comprehensive character of that proposed with the United States ought not to be—cannot be—adjusted by ounce scales. By the removal of all artificial barriers in the way of a fair exchange of the products of industry—both parties must benefit. No man sells unless he benefits by doing so—and no one buys unless he finds advantage in it. And who shall tell when two countries throw open their respective markets to each other, which of them derives most advantage from the arrangement? It takes years of practical experience to obtain *data* for such a comparison—and the ramifications of commercial interchanges are so far-reaching and so various and complicated that it is hardly possible to judge with accuracy on which side the balance turns. More than one effort was made by the late Government for the renewal of the old Treaty between 1866 and 1869. In 1869 formal negotiations were entered into with the American Government, and the *projet* of a treaty was presented for discussion. The negotiations continued from July, 1869, to March, 1870. This *projet* included the cession for a term of years of our fisheries to the United States; the enlargement and enjoyment of our canal; the free enjoyment of the navigation of the St. Lawrence River; the assimilation of our customs and excise duties; the concession of an import duty equal to the internal revenue taxes of the United States; and the free admission into either country of certain manufactures of the other. This negotiation ended abruptly in March, 1870—but it is instructive to observe, and I refer to it for the purpose of pointing out that from the repeal of the old Treaty in 1866, up to the recent negotiations,