

UNRESTRICTED RECIPROCITY.

SPEECH BY MR. CHAS. H. TUPPER, M. P.

Delivered in the House of Commons, on Monday, March 19th, 1888.

[REPRINTED FROM HANSARD.]

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed resolution of Sir Richard Cartwright:

That it is highly desirable that the largest possible freedom of commercial intercourse should obtain between the Dominion of Canada and the United States, and that it is expedient that all articles manufactured in, or the natural products of either of the said countries should be admitted free of duty into the ports of the other (articles subject to duties of excise or of internal revenue alone excepted). That it is further expedient that the Government of the Dominion should take steps, at an early date, to ascertain on what terms and conditions arrangements can be effected with the United States for the purpose of securing full and unrestricted reciprocity of trade therewith.

And the motion of Mr. Foster in amendment:

That Canada, in the future, as in the past, is desirous of cultivating and extending trade relations with the United States in so far as they may not conflict with the policy of fostering the various interests and industries of the Dominion which was adopted in 1870 and has since received in so marked a manner the sanction and approval of its people.

And the motion of Mr. Jones (Halifax) in amendment to the amendment:

That in any arrangement between Canada and the United States providing for the free importation into each country of the natural and manufactured productions of the other, it is highly desirable that it should be provided that during the continuance of any such arrangement the coasting trade of Canada and of the United States should be thrown open to vessels of both countries on a footing of complete reciprocal equality, and that vessels of all kinds built in the United States or Canada may be owned and sailed by the citizens of the other and be entitled to registry in either country and to all the benefits thereunto appertaining.

Mr. TUPPER (Picton).—I was somewhat surprised, Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, after a statement made with such assurance and with such exultation by the hon. gentleman who hasled the other side in this debate,

that from the maritime provinces especially should come a wail for unrestricted reciprocity. I was somewhat surprised, I say, Mr. Speaker, under those circumstances that when a question said to be exciting such an amount of interest among the business people of the Maritime provinces was brought before us by a gentleman old in politics, a gentleman well acquainted with political strategy, a member representing his party from the province of Nova Scotia, to see him travelling back to the dusty journals of this House for 1867, in order to attempt to bring arguments to bear against the Liberal-Conservative party on a charge of having been at one time disloyal to the interests of the empire. It struck me as a curious commentary upon the boasted strength of their principles, initiated in bringing the main resolution before this house, that an hon. gentleman holding the position that the hon. gentleman from Halifax (Mr. Jones) the senior member from his county, does, that he thought it necessary, and thought it wise, to labor, and hopelessly labor for some minutes before the parliament of Canada with an argument so puerile and so weak. The hon. gentleman devoted some time to calling the attention of the house to what his contention actually was, that contention being that the language which he quoted from the mouth of Lord Elgin, representing the crown in this country, conveyed sentiments traitorous to the crown and sentiments at variance to the sentiment which brought about the connection of this country with the mother country, and which serves to this day to maintain that connection. It seems strange to me that the hon. gentleman had not read a little more diligently the journals of 1867, since he turned his attention to old and