

country, and the other tariff wall is higher than ours ever was, and is still to be maintained. I doubt the prudence just now of taking down that tariff wall, entirely, at all events. But my hon. friend after a moment of reflection will see. I am sure, that the proposition as to an increase of trade with Australia is not so unwise as it occurred to him at the moment when he spoke, because we find that four or five Governments interested away out on the Pacific have not treated Mr. Bowell's mission as a mere delusion and farce, but have not only received him with the cordial hand of fellowship, as warm and generous as one fellow-colonist could extend to another, but have declared in response to his invitation not only their desire to listen to our proposals, but their intention of coming to Canada to discuss them in the month of June. I venture to say that a proposition which is thus warmly received and is being acted on by four or five Governments in Australia and New Zealand is not one to be derided as unworthy of the ambition of a Government representing this country, for we can see not only that commercial interests may be developed and extended by the promotion of trade between those countries and Canada, but that we shall be doing honest yeoman service to the interests of the Empire if we draw together in closer bonds our fellow-colonists and ourselves. One word more. In conclusion the hon. gentleman gave what I thought was the 'crowning reason for confessing that he was unwilling to be satisfied on any conditions. We have been arraigned, we have been accustomed to being arraigned, by him for every offence of which public men can be guilty. May I say to him, with the greatest sincerity, that we are always glad to be arraigned by him. It is always so pleasing to listen to his accusations, and I might almost say it is so easy to answer them, that we are rather delighted than otherwise when we have new indictments prepared against us and the hon. gentleman rises to assail us. But, Sir, the offence with which he charges us to-night is a new one, and I almost hesitate to plead to it on the instant. The new charge is that because we have not announced our policy on the subject of a treaty with France within the first twenty-four hours of Parliament, we are unworthy of confidence as business men carrying on business transactions. Well, Sir, I will promise the hon. gentleman that we will submit a policy on that subject. I will promise that we will announce it, but we will not gratify him by announcing it to-night. We will bring down our policy on that subject when the measure in regard to it ought to be brought in or to be announced as not to be brought in, and the hon. gentleman may possibly be despoiled of the great delight which he sees in store from the struggle which he thinks we shall have with the various clashing interests which interfere with each other on that question. The hon.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON.

gentleman had a real source of satisfaction in enumerating the different interests which he thought were clashing heads together over this little French treaty. There were the prohibitionists, the wine-producing interests, the interests of the persons whom the hon. gentleman designated as desiring closer relations with France, and two or three interests besides. He will find that the clashing of interests on these subjects is not so material as he may think them. I see the hon. gentleman has not trusted to his note of dissatisfaction on this point to elicit a response as to what our policy is, but has put a question on the paper which will come up on Monday. He will find that the Government have had no unreasonable delay in arriving at a policy on this subject, and no hesitation to announce it at a proper time; but I do think that his doctrine is wrong and that he has gone very far to seek a grievance when he denounces us for any Bill that we may introduce or not introduce, not being put in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the session of Parliament. If I thought I could convince the hon. gentleman how unreasonable he is to be dissatisfied with us, and to be dissatisfied with us so early in the session, I declare I could go on for half an hour or more, quoting proofs, which the hon. gentleman would admit to be exceedingly cogent and strong upon some of the points upon which I have addressed the House. With regard to the condition of the country, for example, I would quote to him the Speeches which Lieutenant-Governors have read from the Throne in the different provinces, and in which they have declared in plain terms what the condition of the country is, terms almost as strong as I have used to-night. In the Legislature of New Brunswick, in the Legislature of Nova Scotia even—and the hon. member referred in words of admiration to the gentleman who penned that address, on a ground which elicited warm cheers and approbation from his friends, on the ground that the premier of that province had just emerged from an electoral contest in which his majority has been cut in two.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Reduced by two is what you mean.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Not at all. That is another of the hon. gentleman's arithmetical mistakes. I do not detract at all from the accuracy of Mr. Fielding or from his credit. The hon. gentleman has stated that the Maritime Provinces was a nest of able men. It is not customary in our little nest for us to deny each other's ability, and therefore, so far from detracting from the capability of Mr. Fielding to express an opinion on the subject, I commend the hon. gentlemen opposite to the speech which Mr. Fielding put in the mouth of his Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the last session of the Legislature of Nova Scotia. I regret, Sir, to have detained the House so long, but on this, the first opportunity that I