

have not the remotest doubt that, if I choose to press this resolution at this session, it would be supported by a very large majority of the members of this house. I have not the slightest reason to doubt or fear what the wishes of the people of Nova Scotia or on this important matter. I say that anything, consistent with honor and with national integrity, which will tend to secure the great boon of commercial intercourse between Nova Scotia, between Canada and the United States, will be hailed with unmixed satisfaction by the people of this province. I say that is the one thing for want of which we are perishing, the one thing which we desire above all others; and I say that unrestricted commercial intercourse with the United States is the one possible thing by which the trying difficulties that beset this Canadian confederation can be met and overcome. I hope that this question will never assume a partisan aspect. I have been informed on the public platform by my opponents that, if any scheme could be devised whereby unrestricted trade with the United States could be brought about, they would support it. Nevertheless I have grave doubts whether there is a universal desire on the part of the people of Canada to support this measure. I believe the manufacturing interests of Canada will oppose it bitterly. I believe that that party which draws its skirts about it and proclaims itself to be the "national" party, and which, notwithstanding, professes to desire commercial intercourse with the United States, will oppose this measure. I believe that, if Mr. Butterworth's measure is adopted in the United States, as I have reason to hope it will be, then the struggle will begin in Canada; and it is the duty of every Nova Scotian, who has the interests of the province at heart; of every person in Canada, who has the interests of Canada at heart, to grip this system of monopoly, of class power, which has been developed by the manufacturing interests, by

the throat, and to let the great masses of the people, the farming, the mercantile, the fishing, the shipping interests of this country, see that their interests are not thwarted by the grasping hand of manufacturing monopolists, or by any party, by whatever name it may be called. It is time this contest began; it is time the people of this country began to know and to understand what interests are at stake. That has been the chief object and purpose which has induced me this session to bring forward these resolutions. I do not intend myself to press these resolutions to a division. I have made these remarks by way of explanation. It may be that, before this legislature meets again, the purpose of these resolutions will have ceased by their successful accomplishment. It may be that this bill of Mr. Butterworth's will be on the statute books of the United States before this legislature meets again. In the meanwhile it is open to us here to express our opinions, not trenching on the jurisdiction of the federal parliament, because I recognize the jurisdiction of the federal parliament to deal with this matter, and there is not a line in these resolutions indicating a purpose to deal with it; but this is a legislature of thirty-eight members, coming from the various constituencies of the province, and will not they know the prevalent, the regnant sentiment in the several districts from which they come? And this is just an expression of the opinion of this legislature that such a measure as that put before the congress of the United States by Mr. Butterworth is in the interest of both these great countries, and that its passage will be hailed with satisfaction in this province. It is for that purpose I brought it forward. If the measure be not accomplished before this legislature meets again, and if I happen to be in public life, it is likely that at another session I shall bring it forward at an earlier stage, in order to test the opinion of this assembly upon it. (Applause.)