

April 3, 1873

to Mr. O'Reilly, would have recommended a returning officer with the view to serve Mr. O'Reilly's interests.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** He could not, for Mr. O'Reilly was not then in the field.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said it was necessary to get some one for a returning officer, and Mr. Bonnifield recommended Queally as a gentleman who had efficiently discharged the duties of Census Commissioner. He (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks) had a very slight personal acquaintance with Queally. He certainly thought that Mr. Bonnifield, from his position and influence, was a very proper person to make such recommendation.

The matter was then dropped.

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#### LAKE GUNBOATS

**Mr. HORTON (Huron Centre)** asked whether the Government intend keeping the gunboats in commission on Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron during the coming season of navigation.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** said one, the *Prince Alfred*, would be kept in commission, and the other, the *Rescue*, would be sold.

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#### TORONTO CUSTOMS COLLECTOR

**Mr. WILKES** asked whether the Government are aware that the Collector of Customs at the port of Toronto is an advertised agent of a Fire Insurance Company, and if so, whether they have granted him special permission to hold this position.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** said that Government were not aware that the Collector of Customs at Toronto was an insurance agent, and their attention had not been drawn to the fact, if it was a fact.

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#### RECIPROCAL TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

**Mr. BODWELL** moved for the correspondence between the Government of the Dominion and that of the United States on the subject of reciprocal trade. In making this motion he spoke of the apprehension many felt that our trade would suffer by the failure to renew reciprocity, and how that apprehension had not been realized. Still, however, it was none the less true that reciprocity was of great importance to our trade. He pointed out that the two great levers we had to secure reciprocal trade relations, namely the fisheries and the navigation of the St. Lawrence, had been swept away by the Washington Treaty. If any correspondence had taken place since the passage of the Treaty it should certainly be laid before the House and the country, so that it might be known just how the country stood on that subject.

He did not mean to say that reciprocity was essential to the prosperity of the country, but it was a matter of very great importance to us.

**Hon. Mr. TILLEY** said no correspondence had taken place between the Government of the United States and the Dominion Government on this subject since the adoption of the Washington Treaty.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** asked if there were no documents or correspondence in possession of the Government from individuals or corporate bodies in the United States, such as the National Board of Trade. If there were any such documents, that might fairly be said to represent the public opinion of the United States, it would be well to lay them before the House, to form part of the sessional papers, that the public might be informed of the advance of retrogression of the public opinion in the United States on this subject. This was a subject of very great importance, and its importance could scarcely be overrated.

**Hon. Mr. TILLEY** said in his remarks before he had referred to the official communication between the two Governments. The only document that reached the Government was a copy of an address, or something of the kind, from the National Board of Trade of the United States, forwarded to the Government of the Dominion through the Dominion Board of Trade. They had received no other communication that he could remember at the present moment. It has not been considered wise for the Government to make any advance to the United States. If the United States made any advance they would be only too happy to meet them half way.

**Mr. JOLY** said that after the melancholy declaration contained in the papers connected with the Washington Treaty, laid before the House last session, he did not think the House could have any hope of securing reciprocity. The Government, who were now taking great credit for the way in which they had managed the affairs of the Dominion, had themselves confessed in their Order in Council of the twenty-eighth of July 1871, to a betrayal of the commercial interests of the Dominion.

They had sacrificed the only means through which the renewal of reciprocity could be secured and they themselves confessed it, as would be seen from the following extract from the Minutes of Council he had referred to:—"The Committee of the Privy Council may observe that the opposition of the Government of the United States to reciprocal trade in the products of the two countries was just as strong from some years prior to 1854 as it has been since the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, and that Treaty of 1852 was obtained chiefly by the vigorous protection of the Fisheries which preceded it; and but for the conciliatory policy on the subject of the Fisheries which Her Majesty's Government induced Canada to adopt after the abrogation of the treaty of 1854, it is probable that there would be no difficulty in obtaining its renewal."

This was the admission of the Government themselves, after they had been obliged to stoop to a policy which meant the betrayal of the commercial interests of the Dominion, and which had they not