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card was "the Washington capitulation," as they were pleased to call it, and we were told that the government committed an act of arrant folly in entering upon the treaty at all. Well, if that was true, if the treaty was a bad one; if it was one which should not have been negotiated; it seems to me that "we should not be seriously alarmed. now, when the time has come when we are to be rid of a bad bargain. [Hear, hear.] But I did not agree with the hon. gentleman then; this country did not agree with him then, and I am satisfied the people of this country, not agreeing with him then, realize that it would be to the advantage of Canada, and to the advantage of the United States as well, if we had fair reciprocal relations, both as to fish and the other natural products of the country, between those two great peoples. But when the hon. gentleman says that there has been no reference to treaties, he does not quite state the fact as it exists. We find that this government, in the very first session in which they met parliament as a government, placed on the statute book an enactment which was practically an invitation to the people of the United States to enter into reciprocal relations with them. [Hear, hear. They took the power from parliament, that whenever the United States chose to remove the duty, chose to enter into reciprocal relations with them, they would have authority to enter into those relations. The finance minister is charged with having made no reference to treaties in his speech, but we find that he has in a much more formal manner than by a mere speech, by resolutions which he has submitted to parliament and which will be embodied in an act of this parliament—taken power to arrange for such a treaty, if the United States are disposed to enter into it. [Cheers.] We have imposed duties on fish, and I suppose hon. gentlemen opposite will not say that that is not a wise thing to do with them, in view of the fact that the American market has been closed to us. We have adopted, in regard to fish, practically the same policy which has been the policy of this government in relation to other matters. Not having reciprocity of trade, we are going to have reciprocity of duties; and those duties are imposed so that the Canadian market may, to its extent, be supplied by our own fishermen—the Canadian market is to be kept for the Canadian fishermen. But while doing that the hon. gentleman has put into his resolution this proviso:—

"Provided, that the whole or part of the said

duties hereby imposed may be remitted upon proclamation of the governor in council, which may be issued whenever it appears to his satisfaction that the governments of the United States and the island of Newfoundland, or either of them, have made changes in their tariffs of duties imposed upon articles imported from Canada, in reduction or repeal of the duties in force in said countries."

Now, sir, there is a distinct statement, made in the most formal manner in which a statement can be made—a statement in an act of parliament, that the people of Canada are ready to enter into reciprocal relations with our friends on the other side or with our fellow-colonists of Newfoundland, the very moment the one or the other is prepared to enter into arrangements with us. [Cheers.] No more formal declaration of the opinion of parliament could possibly be made; and I think it is a much more dignified way, in view of what has occurred in the past, of dealing with this question, than would be the plan of sending commissioners once more to Washington, to be received as unfortunately as our commissioners have been received in the past. [Hear, hear.] Sir, I had the privilege—I regard it as a very great privilege—during six years, I think, of attending the meetings of the National board of trade of the United States. I went there, along with other gentlemen from Canada, as representatives of the Dominion board of trade, which was then in existence, for the purpose, not of urging, but of discussing this question of reciprocal trade relations between the two countries. At every one of those meetings we had reasonable and fair discussion; but if hon. gentlemen will look at the records of the National board of trade during those years, if they will look at the record of its last meeting, as the expression of the opinion of the merchants of the United States, they will find that that body, in view of what Canada has done in the past in the way of sending commissioners to the United States, recognize that all that Canada is called upon to do is to indicate its willingness to enter into negotiations, but that, in view of the past, the first advances in that direction should come from the United States. [Cheers.] I do not think for a moment that the government of Canada should stand upon any punctilious form in regard to a matter of this kind. No doubt a suggestion from the British minister at Washington, for instance, that there was a prospect of fair relations between the two countries, would at once lead to such negotiations as might result in bringing about reciprocity between the two countries. But for the gov-