

paper you left with me containing Lord Salisbury's proposition, and did so immediately after you left the department. You will observe the private character which I wished to impart to the conference is recognized by you a month later in your note of January 27, when you called the correspondence 'confidential.'

In view of the fact that you had come to the state department with the proposals, and that the subject was then for the first time mentioned between us, and in view of the further fact that I agreed to a private conference as explained in my minute. I confess that it was a surprise to me when several weeks later during the Canadian canvass, Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper, both stated before public assemblages that an informal discussion of a reciprocity treaty would take place at Washington after the 4th of March, by the initiation of the Secretary of State.

I detail these facts because I deem it important, since the matter has been for some weeks open to public remark, to have it settled that the conference was not 'initiated' by me, but on the contrary that the private arrangement of which I spoke was but a modification of your proposal and in no sense an original suggestion from the government of the United States.

I read that, in order to point out to the House the value which the late Conservative government seemed to have set upon the successful termination of a reciprocity treaty between the two countries. So anxious were the late government to get that fact before the country during the election campaign of 1891, that they did not hesitate to violate the confidences that were established between them and the commissioners at Washington for which they were subsequently reprimanded in the letter which I have just read to the committee.

For my part, I have been endeavouring since this debate opened to discover what are the changed circumstances which appear to justify hon. gentlemen opposite in coming to the conclusion that a trade arrangement which was admittedly so advantageous to Canada in 1891 could be so disastrous to Canada in 1911. I am reminded that a year ago the time of this House was occupied in discussing questions in relation to another one of the great nations of the world, Germany. A year ago, it will be remembered, a considerable time of this parliament was taken up in the discussion of what was then supposed to be a war scare existing between Germany and England. Our hon. friends opposite had no kind words to express with respect to the conduct of Germany and her apparent determination to strengthen her armaments for the avowed purpose, as was alleged by them, of making an attack on Great Britain. In fact, Sir, during several weeks, whenever hon. gentlemen moved about the chamber one might always hear the clanking of military accoutrements. The other evening the

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hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Armstrong) made a complaint that this government had not devoted more attention to improving the trade relations of Canada with Germany. I was rather surprised to hear the loyal member that he is, expressing so much consideration for trade with the Germans, when a year ago he and his colleagues on the other side of the House were prepared to condemn them with every anathema they could command. A complaint was made against the Minister of Finance that he had not abolished the German surtax to enable the products of that unfriendly nation, because it was unfriendly a year ago if we are to take the opinion of hon. gentlemen opposite, to enter Canada and make Canada a market for the manufactures of Germany. On the other hand, we have a proposal here to establish trade relations with the United States, a country whose peaceful and happy association with Canada for 100 years is about to be celebrated. The hon. member for East Lambton went into somewhat specific details with respect to the industries that would be inevitably injured if not absolutely ruined if this reciprocity arrangement was carried out. He undertook to speak for the dairymen of Canada and more particularly of Ontario. He did assert, and his observations I am sure are still impressed on the minds of hon. gentlemen who were present and heard him, that if this reciprocal arrangement were to be carried out the dairying industry of Canada and more particularly the dairying industry of the province of Ontario, would be ruined. I have before me copies of two resolutions passed, one by the Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario and one by the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario. The first reads:

Moved by J. W. Hyatt, West Lake, Ont., seconded by James R. Anderson of Mountain View, that the Dominion government be respectfully but most strongly urged in the negotiations now pending between Canada and the States to provide for complete reciprocal trade in dairy products.

I have also the resolution passed by the Western Dairyman's Association, which is as follows:

Moved by J. A. Biehn, of Bright, seconded by Geo. Rice, of Tillsonburg, that the Dominion government be respectfully but most strongly urged in the negotiations now pending between Canada and the States to provide for complete reciprocal trade in dairy products.

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that having read these resolutions, which were passed by the men who are most interested in that industry, it is scarcely necessary for me to remind this committee that the hon. member for East Lambton, when he made those observations with respect to the effect