

proposal made by Mr. Brown and Sir Edward Thornton, his co-plenipotentiary, to the American commissioners. It was this :

In regard to the addition of certain classes of manufactures—said the British commissioner—to the free list under the old treaty, we reminded Mr. Fish, that the revenue of the Canadian Dominion was largely obtained from a 15 per cent ad valorem duty on manufactured goods, and that any articles made free in Canada under agreement with any foreign country must be made free to Great Britain.

Now, at the same time the English plenipotentiary gave a list to the American commissioners of the articles which they proposed should be included in the treaty. They were as follows :—

- Agricultural implements, to be defined.
- Extracts of bark for tanning purposes.
- Bath bricks ; bricks for building purposes.
- Earth ochres, ground or unground.
- Hay ; lime ; malt.
- Manufactures of iron and steel, to be defined.
- Manufactures of iron or steel and wood, jointly, to be defined.
- Manufactures of wood, to be defined.
- Mineral and other oil.
- Plaster, raw or calcined.
- Salt and straw.
- Stone, marble or granite, partly or wholly cut or wrought.

Now it is to be remarked that, with the exception of iron and steel, all these other articles were such as we did not import from England, so that there could be no competition from England, and, therefore, no discrimination. The only articles as to which there might be discrimination were the articles of iron and steel, and as to these, they were to be defined. Undoubtedly the British commissioners had it in their mind to define those articles, so that there should be no discrimination against England. But these propositions were not admitted by the American commissioners. So another was made and the following list was finally decided upon. Now, I am calling attention to the list which was finally included in the treaty :

- Agricultural implements, all kinds.
- Axes of all kinds.
- Boots and shoes of leather.
- Boot and shoe making machines.
- Buffalo robes, dressed and trimmed.
- Cotton grain bags ; cotton denims.
- Cotton jeans, complete.
- Cotton drillings, unbleached.
- Cotton plaids ; cotton tickings.
- Cottonades, unbleached.
- Cabinetware and furniture or parts thereof.
- Carriages, carts, wagons and other wheeled vehicles and sleighs or parts thereof.
- Fire engines or parts thereof.
- Felt covering for boilers.
- Gutta percha belting and tubing.
- Iron, bar, hoop, pig, puddled, rod, sheet or scrap.
- Iron nails, spikes, bolts, tacks, brads or springs.
- Iron castings.
- India rubber belting and tubing.
- Locomotives for railways or parts thereof.
- Lead, sheet or pig.
- Leather, sole or upper.
- Leather, harness and saddlery.

Mill or factory or steam-boat fixed engines and machines or parts thereof.

Manufactures of marble, stone, slate or granite.

Manufactures of wood solely, or of wood nailed, bound, hinged or locked with metal materials.

Mangles, washing machines, wringing machines and drying machines or parts thereof.

Printing papers for newspapers.

Paper-making machines or parts thereof.

Printing type, presses and folders, paper cutters, ruling machines.

Page-numbering machines and stereotyping and electrotyping apparatus or parts thereof.

Refrigerators or parts thereof.

Railroad cars, carriages and trucks or parts thereof.

Satinets of wool and cotton.

Steam engines or parts thereof.

Steel, wrought or cast, and steel plates and rails.

Tin tubes and piping.

Tweeds, of wool solely.

Water wheel machines and apparatus or parts thereof.

Now, it is to be remarked that, whereas the first list submitted to the British commissioners, Mr. Brown and Sir Edward Thornton, contained no article (with the exception of iron and steel, which was to be defined) which we imported from England, the latter list contains a large number of articles which we imported from England, such as cotton, iron, steel, woollen tweeds, &c. Now, Sir, after having read the statement of Mr. Brown, it seems that he had in his mind all the time that the Canadian Parliament would not discriminate against Great Britain in these articles, and that the same course would, undoubtedly, be followed in regard to the treaty of 1874, if it was passed and ratified as in the treaty of 1854, that is to say, all the articles in the treaty which we imported from England would be placed upon the free list when coming from Britain. But before the treaty was signed—when it was completed, but not signed—it was referred by the Canadian Government to Lord Derby, who referred it to the Board of Trade for its opinion upon the question of discrimination, and it is to this I refer the attention of the House. Let me first give the statement of Lord Derby :

Renewal of treaty of 1854 for twenty-one years, including the fisheries, with the addition of the free admission of salt, manufactures of wood, iron or steel articles, or of these jointly, agricultural implements and a few other trifling articles.

And here is the answer of the Board of Trade :

To this no objection can be taken, whatever criticism may have been made on the original reciprocity treaty, on the ground that Canada was setting up differential duties in favour of the United States, both against this country and countries with which we have most favoured nation treaties. No such objection can be taken now.

Now, Sir, that is the answer of the Board of Trade in 1874 : That if Canada entered into a treaty with the United States which included articles imported from England, there would be a discrimination against England,