

son in the country. The Government at last were alarmed, and as my hon. friend to my left (Sir Richard Cartwright) has said, upon this occasion the Government did what they ever do—they always refuse to listen to representations, arguments and remonstrances, but they always yield to threats of violence. In the case of Manitoba not more than a week or two ago they yielded to threats of violence; and we had a very celebrated case three years ago when the half-breeds, who for seven years petitioned for redress and for seven years never received an answer. At last, when they not only threatened but resorted to violence, they obtained from the Government what the Government refused to grant them during seven long years. In this instance, I venture to say, that if the United States Congress had not adopted this retaliation Bill, we would not have to-day a treaty, but the question would still be in the same position it occupied in 1885-86; but when Congress adopted a retaliation Bill at once, the Government saw they had gone far enough and the time to yield had come. As the Finance Minister has said, they were glad to avail themselves of the services of the gentleman who has been attacked during the last six or eight months as a traitor to his native land. Mr. Wiman has received an ample answer to all the charges made against him by the Conservative press. During the whole summer he was assailed and now he has his answer, and that from the Finance Minister himself; and the Finance Minister has shown that Mr. Wiman has always remembered the interests of this his native country, and though he resides in a foreign country, his heart is always with Canada. After the mediation of Mr. Wiman, there was an interview between the Finance Minister and the Secretary of State of the United States. That interview was followed by correspondence, a correspondence of a most striking character. It was hoped that after the correspondence the question would be settled in a manner most honorable to this country and most satisfactory to the two nations, that is to say, by an extension of the trade relations between the two countries. The correspondence which has taken place between Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Bayard has often been quoted, but it can bear to be quoted again in the present discussion, in view of the position that the Opposition have taken, and still intend to take, on this question. Mr. Bayard, writing to Sir Charles Tupper, said:

"The immediate difficulty to be settled is found in the Treaty of 1818 between the United States and Great Britain, which has been *questio vexata* ever since it was concluded, and to-day is suffered to interfere with and seriously embarrass the good understanding of both countries in the important commercial relations and interests which have come into being since its ratification, and for the adjustment of which it is wholly inadequate, as has been unhappily proved by the events of the past two years. I am confident we both seek to attain a just and permanent settlement—and there is but one way to procure it—and that is by a straightforward treatment on a liberal and statesmanlike plan of the entire commercial relations of the two countries."

Sir Charles Tupper replied in a similar strain, saying:

"I entirely concur in your statement that we both seek to attain a just and permanent settlement—and that there is but one way to procure it—and that is by a straightforward treatment on a liberal and statesmanlike plan of the entire commercial relations of the two countries."

The plenipotentiaries met, and no doubt the Canadian plenipotentiary had his correspondence in mind. He made a proposition upon this question, and the hon. gentleman has stated to the House that the offer he made to the American plenipotentiaries was an offer of unrestricted reciprocity. The language used by the hon. gentleman the other day was as follows:

"The hon. gentleman says the offer is unrestricted, and I intended it should be so. I intended to give the Government of the United States the fullest opportunity of stating just how far they were prepared to go in reciprocal trade to Canada."

I am sure every one was delighted to hear that the Finance Minister, when acting as a British plenipotentiary, had

offered to settle this question in the direction of unrestricted reciprocity; that he wanted to enter into negotiations with the American plenipotentiaries to ascertain how far they would go in the direction of reciprocity. He had a right to expect, in view of the correspondence which had taken place with Mr. Bayard, an answer of the same nature. The American plenipotentiaries made an answer. We do not know what it was, and I will not discuss it; but we have it in the language of the Minister the other day that the American plenipotentiaries receded altogether from the position which had been assumed by Mr. Bayard in the correspondence. Mr. Bayard had expressed his willingness and his desire to settle this question upon a broad basis and discuss the whole commercial relations between the two nations. The hon. gentleman has said that the Americans receded altogether from the position then assumed by Mr. Bayard. They receded, however, only from the position and not from the principle. As I understood the Minister, he simply said that the American plenipotentiaries considered—and this is what we would infer from the protocol laid before the House—that the time was not opportune or the occasion fitting to discuss that question, that the fishery dispute had to be settled by itself and that the question of commercial relations had to be settled by itself, and that the present occasion was not fitting to discuss the latter, leaving it open, therefore for other negotiations to follow regarding the commercial relations of the two countries as a question by itself. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the very proposal which my hon. friend the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) has made, what he wishes the Canadian Government to do. The language of my hon. friend in substance is this: Since you have not been able to settle the question in regard to more extended commercial relations between the two countries in connection with the negotiation respecting the fishery dispute, I ask you to send a commissioner to Washington in order to open up these very negotiations. And this, Mr. Speaker, is the policy which we intend to pursue. We want to sanction the treaty and we give it our support, not because we approve of the treaty and think it is a good one, but because it puts an end to a vexed question between the two countries and that it will pave the way for entering into further negotiations to obtain reciprocal trade relations as we all desire. Now we are in the face of a presidential election, but we have the fact that the most influential statesman in the democratic party; a man who no doubt speaks not only for himself but for the President and a large section of the party, is already committed to that proposition and in favor of it. Therefore, I think that the occasion is most fitting to do the very thing which was moved the other day by my hon. friend; that is to say, the Canadian Government should at an early day send a commissioner to Washington to meet Mr. Bayard on the terms as laid down in his letter to Sir Charles Tupper and discuss the question of more extended trade relations between the two countries and ascertain how far they are disposed to go in that direction. The occasion is most fitting and I invite the serious attention of the Government to this. I know it will not carry. The hon. gentleman has said that my friend made his motion in view of the presidential election. It is true, but my friend knew the Government would not agree to that motion.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Or he would not have made it.

Mr. LAURIER. He would have made it, and he will make it next year and the year after. We are entering into that war now. The hon. gentleman did well know, from his experience in the past, that his motion would not carry the first time. Sir, it is not in the nature of things and according to our experience that reform should carry a first