

part of the necessary duties of a Government to make a selection on their responsibility, after taking all the pains they can to inform themselves who are the parties best entitled to the recognition. Now, Sir, as to these officers, and in particular to the officers on whom devolved the responsibility of leading bodies of men in the North-West, everybody knows that many of the gentlemen suffered very considerable hardship, as did also the men and officers under their command, and very probably exposed themselves to considerable loss by being absent from their ordinary avocations at such times. But human nature being human nature, it cannot be wondered at—although I am bound to say I believe that they have made no sign and given no indication of their feelings but it cannot be wondered at if these gentlemen do feel in their hearts a little aggrieved at seeing that their services are apparently altogether ignored. I repeat, Sir, it is unfortunate that they should be ignored. The House should recollect that we were in a very serious dilemma about a year ago, and it was mainly due to the gallantry of the officers and men who formed that North-West expedition, that what might have been an exceedingly dangerous revolt, was promptly suppressed before it was possible for it to spread to the Indian tribes, and I doubt, with all due respect to my gallant friends who took a share in suppressing the Fenian raid in 1869-70, or in the first expedition to Red River, if any men rendered better service to their country,—and in rendering service to their country they rendered service to the British Empire be it remembered—than did the officers and men that took a share in the expedition of 1885; and, therefore, although it is not for me, although it is not for us, to dictate to Her Gracious Majesty what she should be pleased to do in the matter of honors, I think it might be as well that in some indirect method or fashion that expression of opinion, which I venture to say is shared by a great many gentlemen on both sides of the House, should be brought through the proper channel to the notice of Her Most Gracious Majesty, who may, when it is brought before her, be thoroughly depended upon to do what is right and proper in this matter.

Motion agreed to.

FLAG TREATY BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. VAIL moved for:

Copies of all correspondence between the Dominion and the Imperial Governments on the subject of the flag treaty between Spain and the United States, whereby American products are admitted to entry in Cuba and Porto Rico on more favorable terms than the products of the Dominion of Canada.

He said: This is the third time I have moved for this correspondence. The importance of the subject, and the interest taken in it by commercial men who are engaged in the trade with the Spanish islands, must be my excuse for occupying a few moments in making a further explanation beyond the statements made last year and the year before. As I stated at that time, previous to 1884, the United States Government obliged all persons entering goods from Porto Rico and Cuba to pay 10 per cent. additional over the goods entered from any other country. But in the beginning of 1884, I think in February, an arrangement was made between the Spanish Government and the American Government that in consideration of the American Government removing that restriction of 10 per cent. on Spanish goods brought to the United States or entered in United States ports, the Spanish Government agreed to place the goods landed from the United States in Porto Rico and Cuba on the same footing as goods landed from Spanish vessels or from Spain. Our annual shipments of dried fish to Porto Rico alone is about 150,000 quintals. In addition, we ship a large quantity of pickled fish. Besides this, we ship a large quantity of fish to the Island of Cuba.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

The change made in favor of the United States Government is equal to about 20 per cent. of the duties paid, and the duty paid on dried fish by our merchants is about 13 cents per 100 lbs. over what the Americans are called upon to pay on their fish. In addition, the United States vessels when discharging cargoes are admitted to entry on payment of 62½ cents per ton, while our vessels, and, in fact, the vessels of every other country except France and Germany pay \$1.25 per ton. For loading cargoes our vessels pay \$1 per ton while American vessels are only charged 50 cents per ton. I explained all this to the House in 1884, and the Minister of Finance replied as follows:—

“Sir LEONARD TILLEY. The attention of the Government has been called to this subject previous to the statement of the hon. gentleman. We have obtained some information with reference to the effect of this treaty or arrangement between the two countries, but as far as we have received it, if it includes the question of tonnage, it does not bear out the statement he has made, though I dare say he may be right. The arrangements between Spain and the United States were not really as favorable as those between Canada and Cuba or Porto Rico. There were charges made that did not exist here. They have been removed and the United States have been placed in the third list of duties. The Government are quite alive to the importance of having our trade on as good terms as that of the United States, and no time will be lost in endeavoring to bring about such arrangements as will place us on quite as favorable terms as they have.

“Mr. MACKENZIE. What treaty is it that governs the traffic at present? Is it a recent treaty?

“Sir LEONARD TILLEY. It is an arrangement made, such as this, I presume. It is not a treaty.

“Mr. MACKENZIE. It is independent of any commercial treaty?

“Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Yes. This is an arrangement by which this anomalous state of things is to be removed, and, as far as I have seen the correspondence, they propose to go still further and make treaty arrangements even wider and broader in their operation than those referred to by the hon. member for Digby (Mr. Vail.) This is an arrangement made by the representative of the United States and the Spanish authorities placing the imports entering into Cuba or Porto Rico under what is called the third list. There are four rates of duties and charges, and they are now placed in the third column. The exact effect of this we have not yet been informed of.”

The matter stood over from that time till last year, when I again moved in the matter, and went over pretty much the same ground as I have gone over to-day. I pointed out then that a year had elapsed and nothing apparently had been done. I pointed out that we were placed at a very great disadvantage; that it was a matter that required the attention of the Government, and I was a little disappointed on finding that nothing had been done, so far as I knew, up to that time. Last year I was in a position to show pretty conclusively the statements I had made were quite correct, and I produced at that time a price current from Cuba by which I showed the exact amount of duty paid on American goods at those islands, and the duty paid on our goods. Perhaps I had better read to the House the short table I then submitted, which, however, contains only a few of the articles. It is as follows:—

	All Countries except Spain and United States.	United States.	Difference.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Apples	1 47½ per 100 lbs.	1 15 per 100 lbs.	0 32½
Beans	1 12½ do	0 82½ do	0 30
Bran	0 64·30 do	0 48·30 do	0 16
Brooms	3 68 per dozen.	2 76	0 92
Butter	6 64	5 23 do	1 44
Bacon	3 84	2 87	0 47
Coal oil	2 90	2 20	0 74
Coal	0 61·50 per ton.	0 49·50	0 12
Box shooks	0 22½ each.	0 15	0 07½
Wheat flour	5 40	4 00	0 80
Cod fish	1 12½	0 82½	0 32
Hams	3 84 per 100 lbs.	2 07	1 17
Smoked herring	1 12½	0 82½	0 30
Lard	4 48½	3 35	1 13
White pine lumber	6 40	4 80	1 60
Mackerel	1 12½	0 82½	0 30
Mess pork	1 86	1 38	0 48

Now, Sir, the House will see at once that it will be next to impossible, with these restrictions on our trade, for our