

the volume of our trade with the United States, and the more so, as it is known to me, and I dare say to the Minister of Customs, that in spite of all the restrictions which he has placed on that trade, and in spite of all the vigilance of his officers, a great many of the goods do find their way into Canada without the formality of going through the custom house.

Hon. members—"Do you call that a formality?"

Sir R. CARTWRIGHT—I will not say that going through the custom house is a mere formality, but I will say without paying

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I am not going at this hour to repeat many of the arguments which I used last year. Those arguments have not yet been met or answered, and therefore I will refer hon. gentlemen opposite to the speech which I then delivered for the further arguments I could very easily advance in regard to this matter. I have no doubt that, if any hon. gentlemen on that side desire to take up our challenge, they will find many of my hon. friends here ready to make our views plain to their understanding, if they are not now. What is wanted just now is rather to understand exactly the obstacles which are in our way, and I contend that the chief obstacle to the carrying out of the well understood and well ascertained wishes of the people of Canada is the conduct and past attitude of the Government of Canada. Their fault in that respect is very much the same as their fault in the matter of the fisheries. They have managed, in some way or other, to convince the people of the United States, and to convince the Government of the United States, that the Government of Canada, whatever the people of Canada may be, are not at all desirous of cultivating friendly relations with the United States. I cannot stop now to discuss how much of that feeling may be due to the downright stupidity of the Government, as shown in the case of the export duty on sawlogs, how much of it may be due to mere selfishness, how much may be due to a desire on their part to promote their own interests and the interests of the combines and manufacturers which they represent, but there is too much reason to fear that these men are to-day the secret opponents of the wishes of the people of Canada. They hardly dare openly to avow the hostility to the United States which they manifested last year,