

ment and who yet favour reciprocity. I do not doubt that the Government is in favour of reciprocity of a certain kind. Those hon. gentlemen have been in favour of a kind of reciprocity for a great number of years: it is only fair to admit that such is the case. The question is: What kind of reciprocal treaty can the Government obtain? If the Government is only in favour of a certain kind of reciprocity, if it will stop short in the negotiations on the ground that beyond that point reciprocity will not be acceptable, then the question before the people is this: Is that kind of reciprocity which the Government will not accept of that character which they should agree to accept in the interests of the country rather than fail to secure any treaty whatever? The Government will find, in my opinion, that if they are ever successful in any negotiations, they will have to come to the position occupied by the Liberal party. They can get a treaty of reciprocity—we shall be glad to aid them in getting it—simply on the terms the Liberal party propose and on no other terms; and if they are not willing to accept the terms we have outlined, they may try to secure a treaty, but they will fail. There is no reason for believing that a treaty can be obtained on any other grounds than those set forth by the Liberal party.

Mr. BOWELL. Tell us what they are.

Mr. CHARLTON. It might not be complimentary, and I will not do so. I do not believe that hon. gentlemen opposite are themselves agreed as to what they are willing to accept. The Secretary of State is more advanced in opinion than is the Minister of Customs, and no doubt there are different phases of opinion in the Cabinet, so that perhaps the Government is fishing just now for information. I am inclined to think they will know their opinion better after they receive returns to their circular sent to the manufacturing establishments all over the country, asking how far free trade with the United States would affect their particular lines of goods.

Mr. BOWELL. Perhaps you will say what you are.

Mr. CHARLTON. I will tell the hon. gentleman what we are before I get through, but he may not believe it. I assure the hon. gentleman and the hon. Minister of Finance that they will find on this side of the House an honest desire to aid in securing any kind of a treaty that will improve our commercial relations with the United States. We will be glad to aid the Minister of Finance. We will sink party and all considerations of party advantage to aid him in securing that which is best for the interests of the country; but we will ask the hon. gentleman to meet us in a like spirit, to forget party predilections and be governed by the same consideration we profess to be governed by, namely, that of advancing the best interests of the country. We ask him to secure a reciprocity treaty, and if he is unable to do so on his own ground, to make concessions and compromises, to go beyond that point where he considers he should stop, for the purpose of securing for this great country the almost inestimable privilege of free trade relations with the nation to the south of us.

This being the case, our disposition being to help forward this work, I think, perhaps, we had better

look over the ground and take stock and see where we stand, see what can be done, deliberate in a friendly spirit what is best to be done, as to how far we can go, and as to the point where we must stop. The hon. Minister of Finance told us in his speech the other night, a very able speech made almost impromptu, an energetic speech in which the hon. gentleman brought out his points very well and made a good defence of his side of the case, that this Government has at all times been in favour of a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854. There is not a sane man in Canada who would not have been in favour of a renewal of that treaty; but there is another party that is not in favour of its renewal. While we are in favour of it, the United States Government have been opposed to its provisions, and are now opposed to a renewal of it. So we cannot meet on common ground in regard to that treaty. When this Government declared to the country, time and again, that they favoured a renewal of the Treaty of 1854, they were simply deluding the people, for they knew that the United States would not grant them a renewal; and so we might just as well dismiss that part of the case, for there is no use talking about anything impracticable. We may be willing to take something we cannot get, but if we cannot get it it is folly for us to talk about it. The Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 was abrogated by the American Government in 1866 for reasons which they considered quite sufficient. During the twelve years that treaty was in operation we sold to the Americans \$246,000,000, in round numbers, worth of free goods, and they sold to us \$125,000,000, in round numbers, worth of free goods. In that list was included the raw cotton and the raw tobacco which we bought of them, and which we never dreamt of taxing. The Americans seeing this, said: "This treaty is not working advantageously to us; it is neither a reasonable nor a just treaty for us; it gives you the opportunity to sell to us everything you have to sell, but it deprives us of selling to you many articles which we desire to sell; we receive from you twice as many free goods as we sell to Canada." The Americans saw this and they consequently abrogated the Treaty of 1854. Now, Sir, have we reason to suppose that the American Government will accede to the proposal the Canadian Government intends to make, for reciprocity in natural products only? Let us for a moment look at the facts of the case. We sell to them such natural products as barley, horses, cattle, sheep, potatoes, hay, wool, pease, eggs, beans, lumber and a hundred other articles, not one of which they sell to us in return. This trade is, therefore, all in the one direction. They do not sell to us the kind of articles they buy from us, and consequently a treaty in natural products only, is not only not advantageous to the United States but it is, in their estimation, disadvantageous to them. The Americans ask that we shall have a truly reciprocal treaty and that they shall buy from us all the products of our labour, which are largely natural products, while we shall buy from them the products of their labour, including manufactured goods. They ask that we shall exchange the products of our labour for the products of their labour on just and equitable terms, and unless we make such a treaty as that we will never make one at