

an unnatural political system, our present relations with Great Britain could continue for a single year. Now, touching the question of reciprocity, I have always been of the opinion that a fair reciprocity treaty along the lines of the old treaty would be of advantage to some extent to the Dominion of Canada, but it is not the right thing for us in this country to have it go forth to the world or among our own people that it is impossible for us to make our way and be prosperous within ourselves without having the advantage of the market of the United States. We all know that, when the McKinley Bill was passed by the statesmen of the adjacent Republic, there was a general fear that there would be something very much akin to a commercial crisis in Canada. We know how public speakers on both sides of politics as well as the public press said it would strike a deadly blow to the interests of the farmers and producers of Canada: but, notwithstanding the passage of that Bill, which has been in operation for about two years, we find that during the present year, far from trade languishing and our exports falling off, for the first ten months of this year, our exports exceeded those of the previous year by nearly \$11,000,000, and the estimate of the Finance Minister is that for the full year ending the 30th June next, they will exceed them by about \$14,000,000, and that despite the fact that the McKinley Bill has been in operation during that time, and the fear was so generally felt that, in consequence of that measure, there would be no market for our agricultural produce. In the position in which reciprocity is to-day, it seems to me to be the duty of members on both sides of the House, irrespective of party, to turn their attention to seeing what can be done by our statesmen; what markets can be opened up so that we may get a better market for our produce in Great Britain, and I believe this resolution, if carried, would give a boom to the agricultural interests as well as to the other interests in this country, and that we could find a market for almost everything we produce in Great Britain. Hon. gentlemen opposite have always put forward the statement that the United States is the natural market of the Dominion of Canada, and that it would be an untold blessing for the people of Canada to have a market of 65,000,000 people. I believe the term "natural" in this connection is a misnomer. Markets are not the result of nature, but the result of the business carried on by men, and, when we talk of the benefits to accrue to us from the markets of 65,000,000 people, we must remember that we would only have the benefit of a very small portion of the 65,000,000 as consumers, because a great majority live in the south and west, and the only people we would have to sell our produce to are those of the New England States and the states along the Atlantic seaboard. While that would be no doubt an advantage some years in regard to the sale of our potatoes and our horses, I do not believe it would be the great blessing to the agricultural interest that some gentlemen anticipate, because I do not see that the increased market would improve the value of the farm lands in Canada when we find that in the State of New York the value of farm property has decreased 33 per cent in the last ten years, and the exodus from the farm lands in New York has been so alarming that the governor of the state called attention to it in 1890,

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and the state assessors refer to the decrease in the value of those lands in their report. Therefore, while I believe there would be an advantage in our having a free market in the United States, I do not believe it would have the result of increasing the value of our farm lands to the extent which has been supposed. We send to England the largest portion of our lumber. That is the market for our cattle. In the United States there is practically no market for our cattle, and if the duty were taken off beef, we would have Chicago beef brought into Canada and competing with our farmers. Our beef goes to England. England is the market for the apples of Nova Scotia and for the cheese of Ontario. There is no market in the United States for our cheese, and while the United States produce every year enough agricultural produce for their own people, and are able besides to export millions of dollars' worth, on the other hand Great Britain imports hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of agricultural produce every year, I ask any reasonable man if the latter is not the natural market rather than the former? The United States produces more agricultural produce *per capita* than any other country. Sending our goods to the United States is like sending goods to a middleman, because we send the produce to them, and they send their produce out of the country to the extent of millions of dollars a year. Looking at the question from this standpoint, it seems to me to be our duty, reciprocity being at present out of the question except upon terms that I do not believe any loyal Canadian would accept, to devise some other means by which our exports will be increased, and we will get a market for our produce. By this resolution I believe we are taking a practical step in that direction, and, therefore, it has my hearty support; and, as no one has risen to speak against the resolution, I suppose we may take it for granted that it has the unanimous support of the whole chamber. Something has been said in this House at different times to the effect that our alliance with Great Britain is little more than a sentiment. To some extent that may be true, but, while this might be an advantage to us in a material point, I think, further, it would appeal to the sentimental side of the people of Canada as well as to their practical and material side, because I do not believe there is any sentiment in the minds of the people stronger than the sentiment that exists in favour of British connection. As I said a little while ago in this debate, I do not believe there is any principle which is so strong in this country to-day as the sentiment in favour of British connection. I do not believe that any party or any politician in this country can hope for success who ignores that sentiment and is willing to hand over our destinies to a foreign, and, I believe, in many respects, a hostile country; because, while the McKinley Bill was framed as a general measure of protection for the United States industries, it was, in some respects, framed as a hostile tariff against the Dominion of Canada, else the duties would not have been placed as they were upon hay, upon eggs, upon berries and upon lime, which articles go into the United States from Canada alone. I believe that in imposing that tariff their idea was that it would strike a deadly blow at the interests of the Canadian people, and