

this: A free lumber Bill was defeated in the last Congress through Michigan protests joined to those of California and the South.

Michigan interests in free logs from Canada reconciled her to free lumber, deny this and her opposition will be aroused at once.

Mr. McALISTER. Had they free logs at that time?

Mr. CHARLTON. They had free logs at that time under the provisions of the McKinley Bill, which I discussed this afternoon. That Bill was being repealed, and some other provision had to be made in order to secure free logs. The lumber duty was reduced to \$1 per thousand under the McKinley Bill, and the export duty was removed by Canada as the consideration given for the reduction in lumber duty. Then a new measure was before Congress, namely, the Wilson Bill, which abrogated the provisions of the McKinley Bill: the whole influence of Michigan was aroused to protect its interest in free logs as formerly secured in the McKinley Bill. The policy of the Democratic party was for free lumber. Michigan declared, we will consent to free lumber if you will guard our interests, as they were guarded under the McKinley Bill, as regards free logs. That was the arrangement on which the suggested free lumber provision was incorporated in the tariff as it came from the Committee of Ways and Means. It was found that the export duty proviso was insufficient, and Michigan was aroused; a crisis had arrived, when the whole scheme was under consideration before the Democratic caucus in the Senate, and when free coal, free sugar, and free iron ore had already gone by the board, through combinations among the Democrats against those additions to the free list, and free lumber appeared also certain to go unless the opposition of Michigan could be set aside, and the active friendship of Michigan to this measure could be secured. That is the key note of the situation, and the whole matter turned upon the proposition, in effect, to give to Canada free lumber, free forest exports, requiring 11 paragraphs to enumerate them, if Canada would agree to refrain from imposing an export duty on logs. That is the whole thing: Free logs on the one hand, free forest products on the other. This was the essence of the agreement, and the burthen of the negotiations and representations and interviews I had with members of the Finance Committee, with members of the Committee of Ways and Means, with Treasury officials, with members of Congress, and with members of the Senate; all these efforts were directed in the line of securing free lumber for Canada, and in the line of securing concessions that I knew must be made, for it was futile to ask free lumber from the Americans without such concessions being made. Here is a great party, and gentle-

Mr. CHARLTON.

men pretending to be men of honour, who have accepted and reaped what was procured under these considerations, and under these negotiations, men who have accepted the boon thankfully and have set aside their boom duties, and done everything that was necessary to retain the great advantages secured in this Bill, yet so paltry and malignant are they as to attack the chief actor in the negotiations which secured this boon. It is in the highest degree petty on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite and is in the highest degree unfair.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. CHARLTON. Is it nice, is it Christian-like, is it generous, is it honourable? It is the exact reverse of all these. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know that I have very much more to say. I certainly have no reason to feel ashamed of the part I have taken in this matter. I feel more confident of this because hon. gentlemen opposite are reaping the fruits of whatever I may have endeavoured to obtain, and have accepted those fruits without a murmur or question as to whether it was proper to get them. They have accepted them without question as to whether they were advantageous to Canada or not, but they know they are in the highest degree advantageous. They know they would have been false to their trust as custodians of the interests of the people if they had not seized upon the concessions made under the Wilson Bill, for they know that we are getting ten where the Americans are getting one, as regards the advantage gained by this arrangement.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. CHARLTON. If hon. gentlemen do not think so, let them abrogate the arrangement and put the duties on again, and see what the country will think of their action. Hon. gentlemen opposite dare not do it. I defy the Government to act consistently with their professions in this matter, consistently with the course followed in condemnation of myself, and repudiate that arrangement, reimpose the export duty on logs, and again put all those articles on the dutiable list. I defy them to do it. If they dare not do it, then their condemnation of me is not fair, is not honourable, is not in accordance with the principles of truth, justice and right, as between man and man.

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat must feel proud of himself after the statement he has made. He has stated deliberately in this House of Commons, the deliberative body of Canada, that he, of his own free will, went to the United States and represented himself as a Michigan lumberman in order that he might get advantages for Canada. This has been charged against the hon. gentle-