

to give up a portion of their existing revenues. Still there has been manifested in Brazil, as well as in Jamaica and one or two other places, a desire to make some concession; and I had the pleasure of saying to the deputation who waited upon us that we were in accord with them so far as the concession of a certain part of the duty on sugar and molasses, but we thought we were in a position to make a concession to the amount of \$500,000 or \$600,000. If we can obtain concessions from those countries to a like extent, we would be prepared to ask Parliament to give up the revenue to the extent of \$500,000 or so, in order that we may make such arrangements with them as that they may give us a reduction of duties. We thought that, under the circumstances, we could do that, and we hope that such will be the case. I may say to the hon. member that I doubt if it would be proper, notwithstanding he had appealed to us so strongly, to submit to Parliament a proposition asking it to give the Government unlimited authority to do certain things in the shape of Reciprocity. I think it would be more consistent with our duty, and more acceptable to the House, if we were to come to it with arrangements made and ask their confirmation, rather than to ask for general power and authority to be given. I think no time would be lost, because arrangements might be made and submitted to Parliament next Session, and the whole Recess would be occupied before any such arrangements could be finally completed. But we are in perfect unison with the hon. gentleman, and the propositions we have made and the communications which have taken place show that we are prepared almost to remove the duty on molasses altogether. There will be but one objection to removing the duty from molasses entirely, and that objection will be this: that so long as we impose a duty on raw sugar, if molasses were free we would get very little duty out of sugar, because it would be all imported in the form of molasses with a large saccharine percentage; and, therefore, we could not do that very well. But the Government are fully alive to the importance of this question, and are perfectly in accord with the hon. gentleman, and, therefore, anything that will enlarge the market and increase the demand for our fish and lumber in the West Indies, or in Brazil, and will increase, also, the demand for our natural products—because I hold, that while the Maritime Provinces will be very considerably benefited, as the hon. member for Gaspé has pointed out, we propose that the manufacturing and agricultural interests of all parts of Canada shall also be benefited by their products being admitted at a lower rate of duty, if possible—will be heartily supported by the Government. The Government will bring down all the papers, and I can assure the hon. gentleman that any arrangement which the Government will feel justified in making, as one which Parliament could properly sustain, we shall have great pleasure in submitting and asking Parliament to sanction.

Mr. BURNS. Of the grand total of imports into South America, Central America, Mexico and the West Indies, amounting to the value of \$416,215,000, no less than \$93,000,000 worth are imported from the United States.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I desire to ask the hon. Finance Minister whether the offers made to the people of Cuba were made to the authorities of Cuba direct.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. No.

Mr. PATERSON. I desire, also, to ask, as it will be impossible to obtain this return before the close of the Session, whether there has been any communication with the Government of Mexico, either directly or indirectly, as that is one of the countries mentioned in the motion of the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Fortin).

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. With respect to Mexico there has been no communication directly with the authorities,
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and none but verbal communications by a party who has been in Mexico, and his communications were not of an official character. He has addressed a letter or two to me, personally, urging the importance of the subject. I have been in communication with the Governor-General to-day, and copies of the despatches asked for by the hon. leader of the Opposition will be laid on the Table, except those with France and Spain, which are not complete; the Colonial Office objecting to communications passing between foreign Governments and our representative, or the Imperial Government, being laid before Parliament until they are complete. All the rest of the correspondence will be laid before the House.

Mr. BLAKE. When?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. To-morrow, I think.

Motion agreed to.

BAYFIELD HARBOR.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron), in moving for copies of all reports, plans and surveys made by the Government engineers of Bayfield harbor, in the county of Huron, said: I desire to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Public Works to the condition of Bayfield Harbor. A sand bank being formed in the mouth of the harbor prevents vessels from entering and deriving any benefit from the works already constructed, until further improvements are made. I also beg leave to call the attention of the Government to the necessity of building a lighthouse at an early date, as vessels driven in there from stress of weather seeking refuge cannot judge the harbor at night. A fine three-masted schooner on attempting to enter the harbor on a dark, stormy night last fall, missed the entrance, and now lies a total wreck three or four rods south of the harbor, which in all likelihood would have been saved if there had been any light to direct her into the harbor. I also beg leave to ask the hon. Minister if it is the intention of the Government to make any improvement in Bayfield Harbor during the coming summer.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. In answer to the hon. gentleman, I may say that when the hon. member has placed the question on the Notice Paper I will be able to answer it; I am not able to do so to-day. There is no objection to the papers being brought down.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I hope the hon. Minister will take into his very serious consideration the subject matter of the motion of the hon. member for South Huron. The hon. Minister knows something of Bayfield Harbor. The question of improvement has been before the House many times. Eight or ten years ago I drew the attention of the Government of which the hon. gentleman was then a member, to the importance of some public money being expended on that harbor, with a view to the protection of the trade of the lakes; and on another occasion I drew his attention to the importance of that harbor, a harbor situated in one of the finest localities of the whole of Western Canada, a harbor which could be made a good commercial harbor at a reasonable expenditure of public money. The hon. gentleman is, perhaps, aware that in 1875 or 1876 a sum of \$15,000 was voted by Parliament for the purpose of improving the harbor. The people of that locality did not occupy exactly the same position as the people of other localities, as they contributed a very large sum themselves to the improvement of the harbor. The township of Stanley, in which the harbor is situated, spent between \$40,000 and \$50,000 on the harbor, while the Government, as I have said, spent \$45,000. Some valuable works were constructed, piers and so forth; but the hon. gentleman is, no doubt, aware that on the east coast of Lake Huron, no matter how good the harbor may be, immense quantities of debris are brought down every spring, and, to a large extent