

Commercial Relations with the Dominion of Canada and the Extension  
of Markets for our Productions.

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SPEECH  
OF  
HON. ELIJAH WARD.

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On the joint resolution (H. R. No. 14) providing for the appointment of commissioners to confer with similar commissioners appointed by Great Britain and ascertain on what basis a mutually beneficial treaty of commerce between the United States and Canada can be negotiated.

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, to those who regard our commercial relations with Canada comprehensively and in a national spirit, without undue bias from minor matters of merely local or special interest, it is sufficient for me to point out the respective geographical positions of the United States and the Dominion, and the extent of the latter country. A straight line drawn from the northern boundary of Maine, near the headwaters of the Saint John's River, to Detroit, would pass entirely through Canadian territory. We are enabled more clearly to estimate the extent of this line, which is small in comparison with our northern frontier, when we see, as we may on reference to any map of this continent, that if continued for the same length onward from Detroit into the United States, it would reach a considerable distance southerly from the place where the Arkansas River flows into the Mississippi, and that if extended directly south from Detroit it would reach nearly to Tallahassee or the Gulf of Mexico.

Regarded from another point of view, it may be seen that the part of the Canadian territory south of a line drawn from the northern boundaries of Maine and Minnesota would exceed in breadth the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, and would be equal in area not only to those States, but in addition to large portions of Nebraska, Missouri, Kentucky, Kansas, and Arkansas. A country of these vast dimensions, and under alien commercial laws, exists between all the New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, on one side, and Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and all the region west of them on the other. An equal area extended southerly would, with the exception of a few miles, separate by a broad barrier all our territory north and east of any point on the northern shore of the Gulf of Mex-