

ARGUMENT
OF
HON. SELWYN Z. BOWMAN.

On the "joint resolution (H. R. No. 149) for the appointment of commissioners to ascertain and report a basis for a reciprocity treaty between the United States and the British provinces," (report No. 1127.)

Mr. BOWMAN said:

Mr. SPEAKER: The questions underlying this resolution and seeking an investigation and a solution, are of vast magnitude, and directly or indirectly have had, and will have, a great effect upon the interests of the people and the various branches of industry of our country. Our commercial or trade interests are the mainspring of our prosperity. To protect and foster these interests, in view of our enormously increased and increasing productions, to preserve for our commerce all the foreign markets which it has had, to open up and extend those markets to the greatest possible extent, to make our powers of sale advance at an equal pace with our powers of production, these questions merit and will receive the earnest consideration of Congress.

However members may differ as to the expediency of the proposed resolution, I am confident that they will agree as to its importance and as to its being worthy of full investigation.

To show the importance and extent of our commercial relations with the Dominion of Canada, to demonstrate the necessity of their careful investigation with a view to their protection and further growth, is the object of this argument; and if I am obliged to treat of the subject somewhat at length, I am sure that members will pardon it, if thereby I am enabled to throw any light upon these long-discussed questions, which in one way or another at different times have threatened the mutual prosperity and even the peace of the two countries.

I shall present what I have to say upon this question according to the following

ABSTRACT OF ARGUMENT.

1. Resolution is for information only.
2. Reciprocity does not mean free trade.
 - A. Present idea of reciprocity is not of free trade.
 - B. Old reciprocity treaty did not mean free trade.
 - C. This movement does not mean the old reciprocity treaty.
3. Is Canada worth treating with?
 - Importance of Dominion as to—
 - A. Location;
 - B. Area;
 - C. Population;
 - D. Shipping and transportation;
 - E. General commerce;