

occasion, and he (Mr. McDonald) believed that the electors of the county, as well as of the whole island of Cape Breton, would not forget this when the elections came on. His hon. friend during the past four years had supported a party whose sentiments were well known to be opposed to the coal interest of Nova Scotia, and the hon. leader of the Government in 1875, he believed, had stated, in his place in the House, that it would take nothing less than \$2 a ton of duty to be of any benefit to this coal interest, although the House was well aware that the gentlemen interested in these mines only wanted to have a duty of 50c. a ton imposed. He endorsed to a large extent all that his hon. friend had stated in advocacy of this proposition. He believed that such a policy would very largely benefit this industry, which otherwise was threatened with complete ruin, and this was only a question of time, if no protection was given to it. Without such aid he considered that this question would be completely ruined in a very short time. He would, therefore, vote for the amendment.

MR. MACDONNELL said that he could not allow one remark of the hon. gentleman (Mr. McDonald) to pass unnoticed. That hon. gentleman had been pleased to say that it would have been much preferable for the people of Nova Scotia if the hon. mover of this amendment had voted for the general amendment proposed by the right hon. member for Kingston, instead of making this motion. He quite differed with the hon. gentleman in this regard. He thought that any further protection than what we now had would tend further to destroy the coal interest of Nova Scotia. There were two causes to which they could attribute the decadence of this interest. In the first place, this was due to the hostile American duty of 75c. a ton, placed on imported coal; and in the next place, this was due to the protective duties which we had imposed against the manufactures and other commodities of the United States. During reciprocity, the Nova Scotia coal interest had flourished; and the moment they lost reciprocity, their

trade with the United States was lost, and thus trade was further crippled by the giving of further protection to our manufactures and other industries. Any further protection must be directed against American products, which step would cripple their present trade with the United States, and thus inflict a further loss on the coal interest of Nova Scotia. The United States was their great market for coal, and the greater the trade and commerce that they had with that country, the more flourishing would the coal industry be. He, therefore, quite differed in opinion from the hon. gentleman, who himself knew other than what he had stated. He believed that the hon. gentleman knew better. Any further protection would go to further ruin their coal interest. He felt that an invidious distinction had always been made in this House against this interest. The moment that they asked for a duty on coal they were met with the request that the agricultural and manufacturing interests, and every other interest of Canada, ought to be protected.

MR. BOWELL: Why not?

MR. MACDONNELL said that they wanted protection for one industry.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Of course.

MR. MACDONNELL said that this was the coal industry. The people of Ontario thought that their various interests ought to be protected, but what did Ontario take from the Lower Province in exchange for the thousands and thousands of dollars worth that they imported from Ontario? This was not the prognostication which had been held out to them at Confederation; and as one who took an active part in promoting this policy, he was sorry to say so. They had expected an interchange of trade and commodities, and a reciprocity of policy.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Why do you not ask it from the Government on this occasion?

MR. MACDONNELL said that this reminded him of the resolution of the hon. gentleman. If they went back to the proceedings of the House last year,