

Canada, and that Act repealed the tariff *pro tanto*. It was not introduced by resolution, but after the Treaty had been submitted and laid on the table, and after a formal message had been brought down by Mr. Morin to the effect that the Bill was introduced with the sanction of the Governor General. I do not therefore anticipate that objection will be taken by any hon. member and I suppose that the precedent so solemnly laid down at that time will be held to be binding now. Should objection, however, be taken, the clauses of the Bill respecting the suspension of the Fishery Act and transshipment are sufficient to be proceeded with in this manner. The other portions will be printed in italics and can be brought up as parts of the Bill or separately as resolutions as may be thought best.

The Journals of the House stated that on the 21st of September, 1854, Mr. Chauveau submitted a copy of the Treaty, which was set out on the face of the Journals, on the same day Mr. Drummond asked leave of the House to bring in a Bill to give effect to a certain treaty between Her Majesty and the United States of America; and on the 22nd on the order of the day for the second reading of the Bill, Mr. Morin, by command, brought down a message from the Governor General signifying that it was by His Excellency's sanction it had been introduced, whereupon the House proceeded to the second reading. That Bill was a simple one declaring that various articles mentioned in the Treaty should, during the existence of the Treaty, be admitted into this country free of duty.

The House now, Mr. Speaker, if they give leave that this Bill shall be introduced and read a first time, will be in the possession of all those portions of the Treaty of Washington that in any way come within the action of the Legislature. Although the debate upon this subject will, as a matter of course, take a wide range and will properly include all the subjects connected with the Treaty in which Canada has any interest, yet it must not be forgotten that the Treaty as a whole is in force with the particular exceptions I have mentioned. And the decision of this House will, after all, be simply whether the articles of the Treaty extending from the 18th to the 25th shall receive the sanction of Parliament, or whether those portions of the Treaty shall be a dead letter. This measure has excited a great deal of interest, as was natural, in Canada, ever since May, 1871 when the Treaty was signed at Washington. It has been largely discussed in the public prints and opinions of various kinds have been expressed upon it—some altogether favourable, some altogether opposed, and many others of intermediate shades of opinions—and among other parts of the discussion has not been forgotten, the personal question relating to myself—the position I hold as a member of this Government, and as one of the High Commissioners at Washington.

Upon that question I shall have to speak by and bye, yet it is one that has lost much of its interest, from the fact that by the introduction of this Bill the House and country will see that

policy of the Government, of which I am a member, is to carry out or try to carry out the Treaty, which I signed as a plenipotentiary of Her Majesty. Under the reservation made in the Treaty, this House and the Legislature of Prince Edward Island have full power to accept the fishery articles or reject them. In that matter, this House and Parliament have full and complete control. (*Hear, hear.*) No matter what may be the consequences of the action of this Parliament, no matter what may be the consequences with respect to future relations between Canada and England or between Canada and the United States, or between England and the United States, no matter what may be the consequences as to the existence of the present Government of Canada, it must not be forgotten that this House is fully charged with the right of rejecting the clauses of the Treaty if they please, and maintain the right of Canada to exclude Americans from inshore fisheries as if the Treaty had never been made. (*Hear, hear.*) That reservation was fully provided in the Treaty. It was made a portion of it—an essential portion—and if it had not been so made, the name of the Minister of Justice of Canada would not have been attached to it. (*Hear, hear.*) That right has been reserved and this Parliament has full power to deal with the whole question. I will by and by speak more at length as to the part I took in the negotiations; but I feel that I performed my duty, a grave and serious duty but still my duty, in attaching my signature to the Treaty as one of Her Majesty's representatives and servants. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now, Sir, let me enter into a short retrospect of occurrences which transpired for some years before arrangements were entered into for negotiating the Treaty. The Reciprocity Treaty with the United States existed from 1854 to 1866, in which latter year it expired. Great exertions were made by the Government of Canada and a great desire was expressed by the Parliament and people of Canada for a renewal of that Treaty. It was felt to have worked very beneficially for Canada. It was felt to have worked also to the advantage of the United States; and there was a desire and a feeling that these growing interests which had been constantly developing and increasing themselves during the existence of the Treaty would be greatly aided if it were renewed and continued. I was a member of the Government at that time with some of my hon. friends who are still my colleagues, and we took every step in our power, we spared no effort, we left no stone unturned, in order to gain that object.

The House will remember that for the purpose of either effecting a renewal of the treaty, or if we could not obtain that of arriving at the same object by means of concurrent legislation, my hon. friend the member for Sherbrooke (Hon. Sir A.T. Galt), at that time Finance Minister, and the present Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (Mr. W. A. Howland) went to Washington on behalf of the Government of Canada. It is a matter of history that all their exertions failed, and after their failure, by the general consent—consent in which I believe the people of Canada were as one man—