

paid under protest. But, from the information I have received, I believe I am correct in saying that the character of the evidence that was adduced before the Commissioners in Halifax fully justified the equitable character of that award. Before I leave that clause of the Address, I think I may fairly tender to the right hon. gentleman the First Minister the congratulations that he deserves for the successful result of the long pending question. I am aware that the right hon. gentleman occupied the distinguished position of a British Commissioner to arrange the terms of the Washington Treaty; and I think I am correct in saying that it is the first instance where Her Gracious Majesty has conferred the distinguished honour upon a colonial politician. I have no doubt that his knowledge of the facts of the case and his long experience as a statesman have, to a considerable extent, contributed to this successful result. Different opinions I know prevailed at one time; different opinions, I believe, have been expressed on the floor of this House; but, to use a vulgar phrase, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. We have got an award that is quite to our satisfaction, and I believe we are quite justified in tendering the First Minister our thanks for the valuable services he has rendered in bringing this question to a favourable termination. The next paragraph in the Speech is also one of considerable importance. It has reference to the rapidly increasing trade between Canada and England in live cattle. It appears, Sir, that, owing to the existence of the disease known as pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle of the United States, our trade in cattle with England was in danger of being interrupted. If I understand the question aright, cattle from Canada and the United States were admitted to the English markets. Information was collected, and I believe that great credit is due to the hon. the Minister of Agriculture, for the very ready action he has taken in this matter. He, in a very prompt manner, ascertained that this disease existed and was spreading in the United States. When that knowledge reached the Imperial Government, I believe an order was issued interdicting the importation of American cattle into the English market. That order, I believe, for-

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tunately did not extend to cattle from Canada. Therefore, Sir, it seems that the only policy that was open to the Government, was to prohibit the importation of cattle from the United States. When we consider the interests at stake, I think great credit is due to the hon. member for the promptness with which he has acted. Promptitude in this case is everything, for the British Government, in self-defence, would have extended the restriction to this country, as well as the United States, had not this step been taken. In the first place, it is a matter of great consequence to prevent the introduction of the disease into this country, and it would be absolutely necessary to pursue this course in order to prevent the British market being shut against us, which would be a state of things most deplorable. Besides, I believe, with the information I have, that this trade in live cattle between Canada and England, is a source of great wealth to the Dominion, and that trade is rapidly increasing. Consequently, both sides of this hon. House will agree with me, in view of the general depression of trade, that it is of great consequence to this country to protect the trade we have. There is another paragraph of the Address of equal importance to this country, affecting that most important question—trade and commerce. It is stated in His Excellency's Speech, that negotiations have been commenced, with Her Majesty's sanction, for the development of the trade of Canada with France and Spain, and their respective colonies. If I understand aright, there is one important branch of trade which, though not here expressly alluded to, must have been prominently in view when this paragraph was framed. When the commercial treaty was entered into between England and France, somewhere about 1860 or 1861, certain concessions were made on both sides, and reductions were made in the duties of certain classes of goods interchanged between those countries. A short time afterwards, I believe, a treaty was entered into between Austria and France, which gave to the former country the privilege of registering her vessels in French ports on payment of a duty of two francs per ton. Under the "favoured nation" clause in the