

which the hon. gentleman made reference. I know of very few matters that should receive greater consideration from the Government than that of opening up and developing our trade relations with the countries of South America. Considering the large population, and the volume of trade of these countries, more particularly their imports, I think that the Government will be discharging a duty to the country and doing a great amount of good, if they would obtain more means of developing and extending our trade with those countries. It can be said of the West Indies and South America that they are the natural markets of the people of Canada, at all events for the producers of the Lower Provinces. By obtaining those markets we would become more independent of the United States to which we now look largely for a market, more especially for our lumber. As regards the article of fish, there is no country, I believe, which consumes, in proportion to population, more than Brazil, and some of the West India Islands. Anything that can be done to foster the fishing industry of the Lower Provinces would foster the industries and the business of all the other Provinces. In glancing over the statistics of these countries, I find that they import from the United States a great number of articles which we manufacture in Canada. Instead of sending our lumber to the United States as we now do largely, for the purpose of exportation, thence to the West Indies, we would be enabled to trade directly with these countries and get their products in the shape of sugar and molasses in return for our cargoes of lumber, fish, and other articles. I make now more particular reference to the article of raw sugar used in our refineries. As one of the means for obtaining a market for our products with the West Indies and Brazil, it would be necessary to get them to reduce the duties on lumber and fish in return for our reducing or abolishing the duties on sugar and molasses—that is on the raw sugar, not on the refined or partly refined. Reference was made in this House, at a former time, to the advisability of taking off the duties from molasses. As it was said some time ago, so I say now, it may be necessary, and perhaps is necessary, to retain the duty on molasses, in order that we may obtain something in the way of Reciprocity from the countries from which we obtain that article. Besides the West Indies and the Atlantic coast of South America, there is a country which has now been opened up to the world, which has been developed largely by United States capital—I refer to Mexico. There, I think, can be found in the future a large market for our products. We can go to the Central States of South America, we can go to the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, and all along the Atlantic coast, where we will find large outlets for our products, either manufactured or natural. Not only should we look to the Atlantic coast, but we should look to the Pacific coast affording a market for our people in British Columbia; and not only should we look to the Pacific ports of South America, in Peru and Chili, but we should also seek to obtain a fair share of the trade with the Hawaiian Islands and the other islands of the Pacific Coast. Now, Sir, I ask that the Government give its attention to this matter so very ably set forth by the hon. member for Gaspe; and I tell them that the people of the Upper Provinces are looking to them to increase the trade we now have with those countries, and not leave that trade so exclusively in the hands of our enterprising neighbors on the other side of the line.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I concur with the hon. member who has just taken his seat, that the House and the country are under an obligation to the hon. member for Gaspe for the full statistical information he has given us with reference to the trade between all parts of the world and the West India Islands and South America, as well as the trade between Canada and those countries. He has brought before us information that, perhaps, few possessed, or that

would have been difficult to obtain in any other way than by his industry and application. I would call the attention of the House to the fact that since the policy adopted by the Government in 1879 for the encouragement of the manufacture of raw sugar and converting it into refined sugar, we have largely increased our trade with the British and foreign West India Islands, and also with South America and the East Indies. With reference to Brazil, under the operation of that Tariff, and by the subsidy that was voted by Parliament of \$50,000 a year for the encouragement of a line of steamers between Canada and Brazil, our trade has largely increased in the last few years. Without that policy there would be no necessity for a line of steamers between here and Brazil, as we should have had nothing to bring back, no raw sugar. She might have taken our lumber, and fish, and some agricultural products, but a steamer would have had no return cargo. Under these circumstances we could not have succeeded in obtaining a line of steamers between Canada and Brazil. The Government have been very anxious to increase our trade with Brazil as well as with the British and foreign West India Islands. We have succeeded to some extent, and still the establishment of that line is in some little uncertainty at the present moment as to its continuance; still, I hope the negotiations that are now going on will lead to the permanent continuance of that line between Canada and Brazil. I hope such will be the case. But we experience a great many difficulties in the introduction of the products of our manufactures into Brazil. There being some 12,000,000 inhabitants residing in that country, they have very strong prejudices, we find, in favor of the manufactures of England, as circumstances have occurred to establish for many years a very extensive trade between Brazil and Great Britain. Take, for instance, agricultural implements. Our American neighbors have for a number of years endeavored to supplant the heavier English agricultural implements, and it appears, from the report of their Consular Agent in that country, that he points out very clearly the difficulties they meet with. They have even there to contend with the products of Great Britain, on account of the prejudices, as they call them, of the people of Brazil. Now, as the products of Canadian agricultural implements and others are very much of the character of those of the United States, we find the same difficulty in inducing the people to accept them because the like prejudices exist with reference to them. However, we are beginning to break that down to some extent. Under the circumstances we have exported very considerably to that country of our agricultural products. We have now satisfied them that the flour of Canada can be sent in there and kept sweet; the impression was that it would sour; but our Canadian manufacturers have proved to them that flour can be kept sweet and healthy, and does not sour; and these prejudices having been broken down, we are finding a market for our Canadian flour, and for various other products. The same may be said with reference to some of the other countries referred to, as, for instance, Cuba and the Spanish East Indian possessions. At present we impose a duty of 30 per cent. on the export duty imposed in Cuba on sugar. Well, we offered, through our representative in London, to admit sugar in Canada without that duty if they would make certain concessions to the products of Canada; and we offered also to pay a subsidy for a steamer plying between Canada and Cuba, and agreeing that that steamer should be under the French flag, if they would give to the products of Canada the advantages of the French flag, which would admit our articles at a very much less duty than if they had been imported in Canadian vessels, or under the British flag. These propositions were declined. I may say to my hon. friend, the mover of this resolution, that one of the difficulties we experience in all our communications, direct or indirect, with reference to this matter, is the difficulty that they have