

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Wednesday, 31st March, 1897.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE ADDRESS.

THE DEBATE CONTINUED.

The Order of the Day having been called:—

Resuming the further adjourned Debate on the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech, on the opening of the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON said:—When the House adjourned yesterday afternoon, I was dealing with some observations which had been made by the hon. seconder of the Address in reproof of the Conservative party and their organs for charging their opponents with disloyalty, and in answer to that reproof of the hon. gentleman I had pointed out to the House that there was ample justification for these charges, and had instanced among others the extraordinary speech made in Boston in 1891 by the present Premier of Canada. In that speech, part of which I read to the House, the people of Boston were told that Great Britain and Canada had acted shamefully towards them in the war of the rebellion, that they had harboured privateers and encouraged rebels to concoct vile and abominable treasons against the United States government. In answer to that I had given the statements of the Hon. Joseph Howe in his Detroit speech in 1865, immediately after the close of the war, made in the presence of hundreds of leading men of the United States who knew the truth of what he said, and on that occasion he told them that the Canadians had not taken part in those treasonable schemes but, on the contrary, the government of Canada had punished the St. Albans raiders and had not connived at the seizure of the Chesapeake. I think the Hon. Mr. Laurier's conduct on the occasion to which I have alluded deserved grave censure, and when he becomes premier of Canada we have no right to forget that on such an important occasion as that to which I have referred, when he was called upon to speak before a meeting of United States citizens, he delivered a speech which was calculated to stir up

a strong feeling of unfriendliness in the United States against the people of Canada. His statements on that occasion were unjust to this country, and I have given the evidence of the Hon. Joseph Howe to contradict what was stated by the Hon. Mr. Laurier. Nearly 30 years had then elapsed from the close of the war, and the people of the United States themselves had learned to cease shaking the bloody shirt at each other and bringing up reminiscences of that unfortunate struggle. It was unbecoming in the leader of a great Canadian party to go to Boston, among United States citizens, and help them to shake the bloody shirt of the war of rebellion against his own countrymen. But there are more recent events than that, which we have a right to canvass in connection with this question of loyalty. Two members of this government visited the capital of the United States during the present winter—Sir Richard Cartwright and the Hon. Mr. Davies. They had interviews with the President and with other prominent men in Washington, and were interviewed by the United Associated Press reporters, and here is a statement made on that occasion by the Hon. Mr. Davies, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in the government of Mr. Laurier. He was asked "What would be the result if the American government declines to make a reciprocity treaty such as you desire?"

It will result "said Mr. Davies" in an enlargement of our trade with Great Britain. We must trade somewhere and shall naturally trade where we can make the best bargain. We have in Canada to-day a large element whose influence is thrown in the direction of a more extended trade with the mother country as against the United States. We Canadians believe that our trade should flow through natural channels, and the natural channel incline to this country. If we can't trade with America we shall be compelled to trade with Great Britain, and once these intimate relations are established with the mother country it will be difficult to break them.

He evidently implied, in fact, expressed, that it would be a bad thing to establish these intimate relations with the mother country, and told the Americans that if these intimate relations were established, it would be very difficult to break them. He goes a little further and said:

The effect of Canadian competition can only be felt immediately along your northern border, while on the other hand the manufacturers of the United States will secure a greatly enlarged market.