

spoke the same language, and cultivated the same commerce as themselves the barrier of custom should be broken down, and that the trade relations of the two countries should be placed on a liberal and generous basis. This principle was admitted as far as China and Japan. The commercial relations between the powers of Europe were being arranged on a liberal and generous basis, and were found to be to their mutual benefit. Treaties of this nature exercised a very peaceful influence on neighboring nations. Cobden's Treaty had prevented a war, and the difficulties between themselves and the States would be much diminished if the trade relations were renewed. He did not now intend to discuss which side would gain the most advantages from the treaty. He thought it was hardly fair to have reflected on his hon. friend from Toronto in the manner that had been done by the hon. member for Kingston. It was hardly possible to have met another gentleman in Ontario who would have made so good a commissioner. (Hon. Mr. Letellier: hear, hear.) No one in the broad Dominion of Canada was so conversant with the commercial relations of Canada—who for the last 25 years had kept a watchful eye on the interests of the country—who, as editor of the largest paper in the Dominion, was well acquainted with all the questions which would come before him—who knew where the United States would have the advantage, and who also was so well aware of our expectations in the future; and he ventured to affirm that he could not have entrusted the honor and dignity of this country to a gentleman who would have hesitated more to sacrifice the national reputation of the Dominion. (Hon. Mr. Letellier: hear, hear.) He did not think, however, that hon. gentleman required an apologist to defend him. He was too thoroughly master of this question. Of this he had given the best possible evidence in his speech of the day before; for he thought that the House felt that the hon. gentleman was perfect master of all the details of the treaty, and of all the issues which it embraced. He had not probably gone into it in the exhaustive manner in which he might have done; but he

gave this House unmistakable proof that he was sufficiently qualified for the position which he was called upon to fill.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER said that the treaty was not now before them either for their consideration or discussion, but the hon. gentleman who had moved for the papers had very properly made a lengthened explanation, in which he had endeavored to meet the objections of the press of the country and of the Boards of Trade. Such a statement was doubtless looked for by the country. It was a subject upon which varied and opposite opinions were entertained. If they assumed, which they must, that the Government of this country was really the author of this treaty, that it sustained the whole of their views enunciated by the hon. member from Toronto; if they assumed that to be the position of the Government, he felt it to be the duty of the members of this House from different parts of the Dominion to give expression to what they believed to be the sentiment of their respective sections in regard to this treaty. He could only speak for his own section of the country, because different opinions were entertained in the different parts of the Dominion. In British Columbia the treaty would be held as a great boon, and he believed the same sentiments prevailed in Manitoba and in Nova Scotia. Upon various commercial grounds, the treaty would possess greater value to those Provinces than to the particular one for which he had the honor of a seat in that House. The people of Ontario would acquiesce in the renewal of the Treaty of 1854 as the proper action of the Government, and they were quite prepared to enter upon any necessary expenditure to enlarge or deepen their canals, as an inducement to the United States to renew the same; but he did not agree with his hon. friend from Kingston that a satisfactory answer had been given to the objection raised against the sliding scale. The duties had been estimated by his hon. friend at 25 per cent., instead of being what they really were—at 35 per cent.

HON. MR. BUREAU—35 per cent. is not the average. The average duty is 25 per cent.