

gone over to the United States, Erastus Wiman, made considerable of a campaign in Ontario in favour of commercial union. The Board of Trade of Toronto, being asked to make a pronouncement—Toronto, remember!—passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the largest possible freedom of Commercial intercourse between Canada and the United States compatible with Canada's relations to Great Britain was desirable, but that the Board could not entertain any proposal which would place Great Britain at any disadvantage as compared with the United States or which would tend in any measure however small, to weaken the bonds which bind Canada to the Empire.

I cite this resolution of the Toronto Board of Trade to show how strong was the clamour for reciprocity, even in the good city of Toronto.

In 1888 Sir Richard Cartwright moved in the House of Commons in favour of unlimited reciprocity in natural and industrial products. A somewhat lengthy debate took place on his resolution which was finally defeated by a party vote. On the 5th of March, 1891, we had a general election in this country. I suppose very few of the honourable members of this House are ignorant of what took place at that time, although I see quite a number of junior members who may not have been participants in that contest. I was very much interested in that election—and that does not make me so old, after all.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Were you a candidate?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I was helping others. Now, what was the issue in 1891? In February of that year, when Parliament had sat for only three Sessions, Sir John A. Macdonald announced that the House was being dissolved in order to consult the people of Canada in regard to a proposal which had come from Mr. Blaine at Washington, for a reciprocity treaty in natural products. Sir John A. Macdonald at that time was facing the electors with a programme of limited reciprocity in natural products, while the Liberals, clinging to the resolution of Sir Richard Cartwright, were standing for unlimited reciprocity with the United States. The Liberal party at the time claimed that it was impossible to get limited reciprocity, that the United States had steadily refused to enter into such a bargain, but that we had to go one step further and grant them reciprocity in all products, industrial and otherwise, if we expected to secure what everyone in

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Canada desired, namely, reciprocity in natural products.

The campaign was not yet over when Mr. Blaine, the American Secretary of State, was written to by a member of Congress for Rochester, New York, and asked if it were true that he had offered to discuss with Canada reciprocity in natural products only. Mr. Blaine made this answer to the member for Rochester:

I authorize to contradict rumours you refer to. There are no negotiations whatever on foot for a reciprocity treaty with Canada, and you may be assured no such scheme for reciprocity with the Dominion confined to natural products will be entertained by this Government. We know nothing of Sir Charles Tupper coming to Washington.

Yet the trick was done, and the elections were carried by Sir John Macdonald. This was one of the most extraordinary incidents in Canadian politics, and I do not know whether any member of this Chamber has ever realized the fact that for once every elector in Canada who went to the polls, Conservative, Liberal, or Independent, voted for reciprocity in natural products. That was the policy propounded by Sir John Macdonald, and upon which he was consulting the electors in contradistinction to the unlimited reciprocity which the Liberals were supporting. The Liberals voted for reciprocity in natural products inasmuch as they voted for unlimited reciprocity; so I am safe in saying that for the first time in Canada, although the Liberal party was disposed to go further, the Conservatives and Liberals agreed protanto to reciprocity in natural products. Some honourable gentlemen on the other side shake their heads in dissent, but those were the only two questions involved.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: And I will make you shake your head before I get through, because you are not stating what is true.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Order.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am not calling upon His Honour the Speaker to ask my honourable friend to use parliamentary language; but I am stating facts. I am stating the fact that Sir John Macdonald dissolved the House in 1891 in order to give the people of Canada the opportunity of entering into negotiations with Washington for reciprocity.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: In whatever natural products might be considered advisable; but you went to the country on unrestricted reciprocity.