

then wonder at the part assigned him, and ask yourselves what converted him and made him—as we shall learn he was found by her Majesty's government to be—the fittest man in the entire Dominion to be sent to Washington to aid Sir Edward Thornton in the arrangement of the terms and the promotion of the ratification of the proposed treaty. Doubtless you will think it was grave reflection, elaborate study of the interests of the country, consultation with her people, especially her thinkers, and those interested in the development of her resources and the diversification of her industries. The correspondence in the Blue Book does not confirm this theory. No! no paper in it furnishes any hint of this kind; but, on the contrary, they show that on or about the 23d of February, 1874, he and his colleague, Mr. Mackenzie, suddenly discovered that the then present was a most favorable opportunity for the renewal of negotiations for a reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States of America, by which the claim for compensation as regards the fisheries, might be settled without the reference provided for by Article XXII. of the Treaty of Washington. How do we arrive at this information? Why, No. 1 of this correspondence is an extract from a letter of the Earl of Dufferin to the Earl of Carnarvon with one enclosure. It is dated February 24, 1874, and reads as follows:—

“I have the honor to send herewith an approved copy of the order in Council of the 23d of February, of which I have already communicated by telegram a slightly abbreviated transcript. My present advisers are very anxious to take advantage of the opportunity which seems about to present itself to re-establish a reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States of America. I imagine that the course they contemplate will be generally approved throughout the country, and they assure me that it will meet with the approbation of Parliament.”

The enclosure is dated on the 23d of February, and is a report of the Committee of the Privy Council, setting forth that the Committee of Councils had under consideration a memorandum, dated on that day, the 23d of February, 1874, from the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, in which he states that he considers the present a most favorable opportunity, etc., so that it appears that the subject was brought to the attention of Councils on the 23d of February, and, being a matter which required no consideration, was acted upon forthwith, and a minute thereof, slightly abbreviated, transmitted by telegraph to the proper department of the Imperial government on the same day, and a full copy thereof forwarded by mail on the next day. But the Earl of Carnarvon, as it appears, did not wait