

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman is aware that we have not moved an amendment.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am quite aware of that.

Mr. CHARLTON moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 11.05 a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 4th May, 1891.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved that the House do now proceed to the Orders of the Day.

Motion agreed to.

House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Hazen for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in answer to his Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. CHARLTON. A trifle over three months ago the country was startled by a proclamation dissolving the Sixth Parliament of Canada, we are here to-day in the First Session of the Seventh Parliament of Canada, and we are considering just now why we are called here in that capacity. The dissolution was a very sudden one, a contest was precipitated upon the country without a moment's warning; it was a very bitter contest, and we are now assembled here at about the date when we should have been dispersing for our various homes, engaging in a Session which promises to last during the last of the spring months and possibly—probably, indeed—during the three summer months, a time of the year very inconvenient to all the members assembled here; and unless there is some reason for the action the Government has taken, in prematurely dissolving the Sixth Parliament and calling the Seventh Parliament together at this unseasonable season of the year, it is natural, at least for the members of the Opposition, to entertain feeling towards the Government the reverse of complimentary or grateful. The reasons assigned by the Government for this dissolution, in my opinion, will hardly, upon investigation, prove satisfactory to the country.

On the third day of February the Government organ, the *Toronto Empire*, contained the following:—

“REASONS OF THE APPEAL.

“In view of the foregoing important statement,”—
That is, the statement of dissolution—

—“the question will naturally be asked: What are the reasons which have induced the Government to appeal to the country at the present time? It is understood that the Dominion Government have through Her Majesty's Government made certain proposals to the United States for negotiation looking to an extension of our commerce with that country. These proposals have been submitted

to the President for his consideration, and the Canadian Government is of the opinion that if the negotiations are to result in a treaty which must be ratified by the Parliament of Canada, it is expedient that the Government should be able to deal with a Parliament fresh from the people rather than with a moribund House.”

“A CANADIAN COMMISSION.

“It is understood that Canada will send a delegation to Washington after March 4, the date on which the life of the present Congress expires, for the purpose of discussing informally the question of the extension and development of the trade between the United States and Canada and the settlement of all questions of difference between the two countries. This delegation will visit the United States, it is said, as the result of a friendly suggestion from Washington.”

And on the following day, in the same journal, we have additional reasons given for this step which the Government of Canada thought fit to take on the third day of February last.

“NATURE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS—WHY THEY WERE MADE.

“In view of the importance of the reasons which have induced the Government to appeal to the country at the present moment, the *Empire* was privileged to publish a copy of the despatch from His Excellency the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, showing the nature of the Government's proposals to the United States, and indicating the earnest desire of the Administration for the development of trade between the United States and Canada. The despatch is as follows:—

“GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

“OTTAWA, 13th December, 1890.

“MY LORD,—I have the honour to send to Your Lordship to-day a telegraphic message in cipher of which the following is the substance:—

“With reference to my telegram of the 10th instant, this Government is desirous of proposing a joint commission, such as that of 1871, with authority to deal without limitation, and to prepare a treaty respecting the following subjects:—

“1. Renewal of the reciprocity treaty of 1854, with the modifications required by the altered circumstances of both countries, and with the extensions deemed by the commission to be in the interests of Canada and the United States.

“2. Reconsideration of the treaty of 1888 with respect to the Atlantic fisheries, with the aim of securing the free admission into the United States markets of Canadian fishery products, in return for facilities to be granted to United States fishermen to buy bait and supplies and to transship cargoes in Canada, all such privileges to be mutual.

“3. Protection of mackerel and other fisheries on the Atlantic Ocean and in inland waters: also

“4. Relaxation of seaboard coasting laws of the two countries.

“5. Relaxation of the coasting laws of the two countries on the inland waters dividing Canada from the United States.

“6. Mutual salvage and saving of wrecked vessels.

“7. Arrangements for settling boundary between Canada and Alaska.

“The treaty would, of course, be *ad referendum*.”

And then the Government organ at Toronto proceeded to show the nature of the proposed treaty, the proposed movement, and the reasons for undertaking it. It proceeded to draw a contrast between the arrangements the Government proposed to make, and the Brown draft treaty of 1874, and asserted that the purpose of the Government was to negotiate a treaty upon the lines of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, in natural products only; and concluded:

“An offer of this kind is as different as the poles asunder from the unrestricted arrangements which the Grits are advocating, as seemingly they are anxious to hand Canada over, body and bones, to the United States. The result of their policy, as well-known reformers like Mr. E. W. Thomson admit, would inevitably lead to direct taxation, which this country never would submit to. The Government's offer differs also from the one made by the Hon. George Brown in 1874, the proposals embracing, in addition to natural products, agricultural implements