

United States they shall send manufactured goods into this country. Whenever on the political platform we have advocated a policy of unrestricted commercial relationship, we were met with the statement: "This is very nice. We are in favor of unrestricted commercial intercourse, but the Americans will not give us reciprocity, and the result is that we are bound and compelled to stand on our dignity and decline to take any measures for this purpose." To meet this point is the purpose for which I am on my feet to-day. There has been introduced into the congress of the United States, by one of the most influential members of that body—Mr. Butterworth, of Ohio—a measure of a most comprehensive character. In two or three clauses he proposes to settle the whole difficulty by striking down the customs houses between Canada and the United States. The measure he proposes is a treaty of the most absolutely free and unrestricted commercial intercourse. He proposes that there shall not be a customs house between the United States and Canada. A line of customs houses between the United States and Canada is the most unnatural and unphilosophical thing that can be imagined. If the people of the United States were a nation of Patagonians or savages there might be some reason for our not having intercourse with them, but the people of the United States are a people speaking the same language that we do; they sprung from the same that we do; they have a common fatherhood with us in the English speaking race, and to-day nothing but an imaginary line separates the two peoples. Take a map of America and draw a line east and west, from San Francisco to Nova Scotia, and there might be some sense in maintaining custom houses on either side of the line; but if I travel in a straight line from here to Toronto, five-sixths of the journey would be on American territory.

There is no natural cohesion between the lower and the upper provinces of this Dominion. The province of Ontario has her proper commercial complement in the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. The natural commercial outlets of the province of Manitoba are St. Paul, Minneapolis, etc. The commercial complement of the province of British Columbia is San Francisco. Take these facts into consideration, and I see no reason for having customs houses between us and the United States. If it is a good thing to have customs houses between people of the same language and the same race, then it would be a good thing to draw a customs line across Ontario; across Nova Scotia; it would be a good thing to divide the whole Dominion up into customs lines. But the science of political economy indicates that customs lines are a burden and a curse to the countries that establish them, and that they injure and hamper and destroy trade, and the true and sound economical basis upon which trade should rest is free and unrestricted trade without any hindrances whatever, and the only legislative body which has had the courage to adopt this principle, is the parliament that sits at Westminster. If Mr. Butterworth's bill is adopted by the congress of the United States—

Dr. McKAY—What progress has been made with it.

Hon. Mr. LONGLEY—I will come to that too. If this bill should become law then I say it is not in the mouths of the opponents of free and unrestricted trade with the United States, to say "what is the use of talking about free trade with the United States. You cannot get it." If the Butterworth bill passes you can get it, and it will only remain for the parliament of Canada to pass a corresponding bill, and down goes the customs line at once, and trade will flow as freely between the United States and Canada, as it now flows between Massachusetts and Connecticut. Now, what, in brief, is that bill? and I must ask the patience of the house while I reiterate its purposes. It is simply that there shall be no customs houses between Canada and the United States, and that every province of Canada shall have as free trade with every state of the United States, as every province of Canada has with each other, and as every state of the union has with each other. It provides also that we shall have unrestricted coasting trade along the United States. I suppose a greater boon could not be conceded to our people than this. We have numbers of sailing vessels in Nova Scotia which every year are diminishing in value because this coasting trade has been lost. To concede this boon to a country which has no equal as a ship-building country in the world; to open the entire coasting trade of the United States to those who own vessels and schooners in the province of Nova Scotia, you could confer no greater boon upon them. Therefore I regard it as a matter of the utmost importance that a measure like that before the congress of the United States should be adopted at an early day. Some gentleman asks me how far that bill has progressed. It has made no progress at all. It was merely introduced as a notice that it will be again taken up when the United States congress next meets, but from letters received from eminent public men in the United States I have the strongest reason to believe that if the people here support that measure, and receive it in a broad and liberal spirit, and indicate their desire to reciprocate, that bill, at the next session of the congress of the United States, will be adopted. It is said that the leaders of the Republican party in the United States are opposed to reciprocity. Sir, they are opposed to reciprocity. Mr. Blaine, who is the leader of the Republican party in the United States, is the bitterest enemy of reciprocity. He has never given any tolerance to the idea of reciprocity, and on every public platform where he has spoken he has opposed it as injurious to the best interests of the people of the United States. And, to a great extent, I agree with him, because a reciprocity which confined itself to natural products merely would be of immense advantage to Canada while it would be of little or no advantage to the United States. But I happen to be in a position to know that Mr. Blaine is ready to support the Butterworth bill. Senator Sherman, of Ohio, is one of the prominent men in the United States to-day; he is one of the leaders of his party in the state of Ohio, and is one of the possible can-