

tiations for trade relations on anything like terms that can have a successful issue. Sir, the doings in 1866, in which I had some share, and the doings from 1866, in which other members of this Government have had more nearly a share than myself, have been plain and patent to this House and to the country. Not only in discussions here, but in public documents and through the press, they have been patent and open to the observation of all. Sir, I stand here to make the assertion to-night that no unprejudiced man can study the course of negotiations and the dealings of the Canadian Government regarding them, without coming to the conclusion that the British Government came to, and came to heartily, that in all these things Canada had done her simple duty, and had not exceeded her rights and responsibilities, and the duty which, under those rights and responsibilities, she owes to herself. It was no evidence of animus against the United States that we allowed them one season's free fishing, and gave it to them cordially for the sake of the prospect of an agreement upon this matter. All through that issue, and in the protection of the fishery rights guaranteed to us by the treaty of 1818, the care and forethought, the spirit of courtesy and forbearance, and the general lack, on so long a coast and over so wide an area, of any acts which ought fairly to irritate or to annoy, are evidences of the spirit with which this Government carried out its dealings in that critical and important time, so that, while not abating anything of the rights of our country, and keeping that for the country which was justly its due, she has not given any reasonable cause for irritation to the great country to the south of us. Now, Sir, there has been a good deal of criticism of the Government's policy. May I just go back and ask a question in return? Will the Opposition be kind enough to tell us what their policy is? We are anxious to learn. If there is only one way out, we want to know what it is. If you have got that way do not lock it up and keep it, but let us have it, and let us have it in all its plainness and fulness of detail. A good deal has been said about divisions on the question in the Conservative ranks. Is there no division in the ranks of the Opposition? My hon. friend has stated that that policy should be unrestricted reciprocity, free trade with the United States, involving discrimination against every other country. He does not deny it to-night. My hon. friend who sits a little behind him and who is just now coming to his seat (Mr. Scriver), declares in a public assembly before the electors in his county that if it means discrimination against Great Britain, he for one does not believe in that policy. Is there not a chance for a friendly conference between the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) and the leader of the Opposition, and the member for Huntingdon (Mr. Scriver) to know what shall be the outcome, and how they are going to bring this thing out exactly? Sir, they talk about changes and shifting in the canvass. I know what took place in the Maritime Provinces, I know what took place in the city of St. John. I know that in the city of St. John, before the contest had been three days on, the candidates, in Opposition, were going about from store to store, from place of business to place of business, saying to the affrighted merchants "don't be frightened, we don't believe

that all those fellows up there say, you are not going to be hurt, we will look after your interests, and there is to be no discrimination against Great Britain." You will find Mr. Weldon's statements in point. He declared over and over again that the party did not intend to discriminate against Great Britain, and if he had not done it, and if the leaders in the Province of New Brunswick had not put out several different planks for their followers to stand upon, they would not have sent back here even their corporal's guard from the Province of New Brunswick. That same thing is true in the Province of Nova Scotia. I have not the least doubt. But, Sir, we are told that they have a majority from the Province of Quebec. Well, now, Mr. Speaker, they have a majority from that Province, and they have well up to a majority, but not quite, in the Province of Ontario; they have a majority in the Province of Prince Edward Island, and that ends it. But will they consider the facts and say whether in any Dominion contest that has ever taken place since Confederation, the Dominion Government had such an aggregation and combination of powers, as it had to deal with in the Province of Quebec and in the Province of Ontario? Has it ever been known before that the Premier of one of the strongest Provinces unites hands with the Premier of the second strongest Province, and that they were leagued with the Premiers in two other Provinces, and these all together, with their immense political patronage, united in a sworn endeavour to oust the Dominion Government and put their friends in power? It is well that their former leader is not here to-night, if he were he would certainly rise in his seat and condemn the degenerate remnants of his party who have gone so far back on his teachings, when he pleaded most eloquently, when he argued most cogently and laboriously against the iniquity and against the wrong of Provincial Governments and Dominion parties uniting together in Dominion contests. Yet, Sir, you find what? A majority in Quebec, got at what expense? An alliance with the Premier of the Province of Quebec who, if he be noted for many other things, is not noted for his economy in public expenditure; a Premier who, wishing to float a loan of ten millions, wanted a leverage to do it with; and when the Dominion elections were announced, was happy to believe that he had found the leverage with which he could go over to Europe and float the loan, and tell the financiers that he had whipped the Liberal-Conservative party and got a promise from my hon. friend opposite for an addition of \$400,000 a year subsidy, and so he could go to the money markets of Europe and show how he expected to meet the interest on his new loan. And yet the leader of the Opposition boasts of a majority from the Province of Quebec. I would not boast of that if I were the leader of an Opposition, who has inveighed during all these years of opposition against the extravagance of the Dominion Government against piling up the debt, who has bemoaned the burdens of the tax-payer, and who has promised his best endeavours for a tunnel in one Province and an increased equalized subsidy in all the Provinces, if he got back into power, terms which, if carried out, would have entailed millions of dollars of interest upon this country, many millions of permanent debt, and would have weighed