

naires or people of the Manchester school, or what my hon. friend calls philosophers, who talk vaguely of these speculative changes, but there is nothing in the utterance of any English statesman or any head of a party to justify the inferences of the hon. member. On this point the great heart of England is sound, and there need be no fears of even the suggestion of a separation while we desire, as I believe we always will, to remain attached to the old flag [hear, hear]. In considering this question it must never be forgotten that the very essence of a treaty is compromise. In no other way could a treaty be negotiated. It is a balance of equivalents [hear, hear]. Although not then in public life I well recollect the storm of indignation in Nova Scotia in 1854 when the Reciprocity Treaty came up before the Assembly for ratification. Two of our ablest men of opposing parties, Messrs. Howe and Johnston, denounced it as unfair to Nova Scotia, just as the Hon. Mr. Letellier and others denounce the Washington Treaty to-day as unfair to Canada. These gentlemen have lived to see their prophecies falsified by the event, and I have no doubt my hon. friend a year or two hence will equally acknowledge his mistake. At the same time I am far from regarding the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty as an unmitigated evil. It has put us on our mettle, driven us to seek new markets and taught our people the great national virtue of self-reliance. But does the Washington Treaty bring with it no advantages? The persons most interested in Nova Scotia are of opinion that the free admission of fish into the American markets is a great boon, while the privilege to land and carry on trade must redound largely to the advantage of the people along the coast. The man who launches out from the rocky shores of Nova Scotia to earn a livelihood for himself and his family from the bosom of the deep knows full well that he has an ample market in the United States where hereafter as of old under the Reciprocity Treaty, he is sure of a remunerative price. My hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Wark) seems to think that our market would be swamped by fish of American catch, but I can console him by telling him that our fishermen had twelve years' experience under the Reciprocity Treaty, and they are not afraid of the competition. The hon. member (Hon. Mr. Letellier) has deemed it not unbecoming to sneer at Nova Scotia, as if fish was the only article she had to export. I trust my hon. friend will come down to the sea-side and we will show him that we

export coal and gold and lumber and agricultural produce to the United States in the face of large duties and could we obtain Reciprocity the export of these articles would be largely increased. (Hear, hear.) The securing of the bonding system by treaty through the United States cannot fail to be of advantage. Cut off as we are from a winter port on the Atlantic and with no land conveyance throughout the year except by ordinary roads or through a foreign country to the great interior of the Dominion. Then the coasting trade on the lakes must throw a vast amount of carrying trade into the hands of Ontario. It has always been the policy to attract as much as possible of the traffic of the Great West of the grain producing country on the borders of the Great Lakes to its natural outlet by the artery of the St. Lawrence and its artificial adjuncts of navigation. Nay, I hope ere many years to see the grains of the noble prairie country and our own far west beyond Lake Superior brought down this same avenue to the seaboard. Canada has a deep interest in securing this carrying trade, and the opening of our canals to the Americans is really in our own interest. I have only glanced at the many obvious advantages of this treaty. Is any one prepared to take the responsibility of rejecting it? I trust and believe not. Hon. gentlemen I support this treaty, not as the best to which we were entitled, but as the best we could get. I support it as bringing a lengthened peace with our nearest neighbors, and because peace means prosperity to the land we all love. The distinguished nobleman about to leave our shores may well look back with satisfaction to the rapid strides that Canada has made under his administration. Seldom has it fallen to the lot of a representative of the Sovereign to witness such gratifying results in four short years. Other Governor Generals have had the proud boast of adding conquered provinces in the East, but ours is a still prouder boast of a peaceful acquisition in the West of territories equal in size to the half of Europe, and rich in agricultural and mineral resources, our revenue has increased, the volume of our trade has nearly doubled, and content and plentifulness reign throughout the land. With peace assured on our borders, and our people free to develop the great material interests of the country, who shall set limits to its progress during the next decade. Let us then, if possible pass this Bill to-night without division in deference to the expressed wish of the Mother Country, and we shall present ourselves