

were dissatisfied with the skill of our mechanics, or the extent of our productions? Did they suggest this remedy for any evil felt in this respect? Nothing of the kind. The consumer buys in foreign markets when it is necessary; but we are all proud of our rising manufactures, and we would not have them taken by surprise or prejudiced, much less ruined, by sudden fiscal changes, made at the instance of the manufacturers of another nation, or even of our own nation. (Applause.) Now, Sir, as I notice that the President admonishes me that my time is up, I must stop abruptly. I have shown you that the Treaty is not equal in regard to the reciprocal extension of maritime rights and privileges, and will require some amendments in this respect. I have shown you that while, in the exchange of natural productions we have thrown in our fisheries, our natural productions, when sent into the States, are nevertheless to be taxed for a period of years. I have shown you that as regards manufactures, the change cannot be asked, and is not asked, as a boon to Canada. I have thus, Sir, I think, made out such a case for improvements in the details of this Treaty as will warrant the adoption of the amendment I present to you (applause). Now, I will assume that in such diversity of exchanges on all sides, many interests would gain, and that, on our side, the agricultural and other interest might expect great advantages under the Treaty. But I call your attention to this distinction: it is not so great a sacrifice that an interest like agriculture, which is comparatively prosperous, should be deprived of the opportunity of making further gains,—an interest, by the way, the value of whose productions is determined in the markets of Europe, and not in those of this continent; it is not so great a hardship that an interest should be prevented from making a greater gain, as that another interest, that of the manufacturers, we will say, should make a positive loss. The men engaged in this interest have given in many cases, for a great part of their lives, the study of their brain, the labor of their hands, and the surplus capital they have acquired, to the development of this great interest. If the Treaty in itself, or the way in which it is to take effect, should seriously imperil them, ought not the agricultural interest seriously to weigh the fact, and not ask for the destruction of an interest so important to them as producers? I hope, Sir, that it is in this spirit that this Treaty will be studied in British Columbia, in Manitoba, in Ontario, in Quebec, in the Maritime Provinces; that we shall consider it in a patriotic, unselfish, and statesmanlike way, with an eye to all the great interests of our country; and that steps will be taken to secure such amendments and improvements in the Treaty as may make its provisions more just and equal, more worthy of the acceptance of the people of both countries, and of the great interests which they have mutually at stake. (Cheers).

Mr. R. R. DOBELL (Quebec) seconded the amendment.

Mr. JOHN GILLESPIE (Toronto).—I think it is to be regretted that commercial men have had no opportunity before this to express an opinion upon this treaty which has been sprung upon the country. How

it is possible is something I am not informed of. It is possible for As an illustration of the session of who, all deliberated factoring in of four or more manufacturing—certainly half of the interest in the to the table the *Monet* only \$14,000 chiefly of it be believed selected as negotiations this. My Empire second third. Not ignorant on circumstance particular some one at the p this country connected with it,—as I presume have been a knowledge of representative a reciprocity interfering with prudent to let at the present condition. I think we may greater material population, the hesitatingly the boundary future may be years to come States. Forty