

hon. member for South Leeds said with regard to the condition of things in New Brunswick. He had, however, some basis of fact for his statement. A few years ago a United States agent was sent to the city of Calais to look into the labour question. I believe that one of the principal employers of labour in that city, who employed labour from the Canadian side, was fined \$1,000. That was the only action taken at that time. Without question it would be better for our community to have a more liberal labour law on the other side for there are probably 500 Americans working on our side of the river, when there are probably not over 100 Canadians working on the American side. We have some of our citizens who have gone to the United States and taken the oath of allegiance in order to be able to run fishing boats over to Canada and obtain fish. Most of the hon. members of this House know what that oath means when taken by a British subject. However, some of these Canadians do not seem to have lost their desire for Canadian citizenship, for they came over on election day—30 of them—and voted for the Reform party, and took the oath. That may be good law—I am not prepared to say whether it is or not—but there is a chance of its being ventilated in the courts before long. I do not wish to put any stumbling block in the way of the present Government, for down along the border we know just what we have to deal with. Some of the hon. gentlemen in this House, who live further away from the border, may not realize what a task it will be to obtain reciprocity. But coming in contact, as I have, with the people of New England and the Northern States for the last twenty years, I think I can as well judge the pulse of that population as any man in this House. When I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that right down within sight of the Union Jack, and where we could hear the reverberations across the St. Croix River, the Hon. J. G. Blaine gave vent to utterances which I shall read to the House, as indicating to some extent what our hon. friends opposite will have to meet when they attempt to obtain reciprocity: In 1888, during the campaign, Mr. Blaine came to the city of Calais and delivered a brilliant address to the Republican party in which he used these words:

Beyond the frontier, across that river, our neighbours choose another government, another allegiance. They are subjects of Queen Victoria, they are loyal to Her Majesty. They live under a foreign flag. They do exactly as they have a right to do. I neither dispute their right nor envy their situation. It is their right to choose for themselves, as it is our right to choose for ourselves. But I am opposed, teetotally opposed, to giving the Canadians the sentimental satisfaction of waving the British flag, paying British taxes, and enjoying the actual cash remuneration of American markets. They cannot have both at the same time. If they come with us they can have what we have, but it is an absolute wrong against the rights of American citizens that millions of men who owe the United States no

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allegiance, who have no part or lot with us, who are not of us, but choose to be foreign with us; it is an absolute wrong for Congress to say that they shall have exactly the same share in our markets and the same privileges of trade under our flag that we have. So far as I can help it, I do not mean that they shall be Canadians and Americans at the same time.

There is no middle place for Canada. For she must be either incorporated with our own union or be deemed a foreign country. It is for Canadians to say whether they choose to be treated as brothers or as strangers.

Now, in view of these facts, I do not wish to put any hamper or obstruction in the way of the Government obtaining these relations which they so gladly anticipated. I even met our hon. friend the late member for our county (Mr. Gilmour) in this city the other day, and I judged that he had come here to congratulate the Government on having obtained reciprocity; for during his campaign he gave us to understand that just as soon as these good Reformers got into office, that moment a special train would carry delegates from Washington, and there could not be found a train fast enough to carry these delegates from Washington for the purpose of obtaining a reciprocity treaty from us. These are the reasons why, at present, I wish to leave the matter in the hands of the Government.

Mr. PRIOR. I do not propose to say many words with regard to this matter, because I think everything has been said already. But I do wish to say that I am heartily in accord with the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) in introducing this measure. That hon. gentleman has persistently brought forward this measure before the House. He has told us that the American nation are guilty of great tyranny to our workingmen and I think that the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has well earned the gratitude of every mechanic and labourer in this Dominion for his endeavour to see that justice shall be done to them. He has shown us that not only are Canadians not allowed to go across to work in the United States, but that, if they persist in doing so, they are not merely ordered away, but, if they remain, are liable to fine and imprisonment. I think that a great many hon. gentlemen in this House must have had the same experience in their constituencies that I have had in mine in meeting with men who have suffered at the hands of the Americans in this regard. I have met men who have moved away with their families from British Columbia to some portion of the United States, with the intention of getting work there. But when they obtained work, as soon as it was found that they were not American citizens, they were ordered away. I say that is rank tyranny. And, though the First Minister says that the principle of retaliation is altogether wrong, still, I cannot say that I do not believe in it myself. My personal feeling is that if the Americans are aggressors in a