

who pays the duty, the people of Prince Edward Island, who export their potatoes to the United States, know very well that they are called on to pay the duty. The consumer there is not called upon to pay it; if he were, reciprocity would be of no advantage to the people of this country. They know, when they take their potatoes there, and enter the Custom house and pay 15 cents a bushel in gold, and go to the wharf and sell them, the American potatoes are there side by side with theirs, and the American producer receives the same price as they do, and consequently pockets the 15 cents. I trust, therefore, the Government will take every means in their power to obtain reciprocal trade with the United States. I know it is the desire of the Government, but while this standing invitation, of which we have heard so much, has been on the Statute Books of the country, I think that the Government should go further. It was impossible to get it while the Republicans were in power, because they rejected the overtures of hon. gentlemen opposite when they sent the Hon. George Brown to negotiate a treaty, and I think it is scarcely possible that, having rejected those proposals, they should accept the proposals of another Government. But now there is a change of Government in the United States; the Democrats are in power, and it is believed the Democrats are favorable to extending the trade relations of the United States, and it is therefore quite possible that reciprocity might be obtained from them. I have noticed lately that a number of reciprocity treaties negotiated or inaugurated by the Republican party have been allowed to drop out, and nothing more has been heard of them. I trust the Government will endeavor to secure reciprocal trade with the United States. But, Sir, while we should endeavor to obtain a reciprocity treaty with the United States, we should also remember the important interests which are involved in our trade relations with the West Indies. The Government should not allow this matter to rest. The people of Canada are interested in that trade; a large amount of trade is done with those islands, and I hope the Government will use their efforts in this direction also. The hon. member for Digby (Mr. Vail), said, this evening, that the National Policy had utterly killed the trade between Canada and the West Indies. Surely he did not consider the expression he used, for he must be aware that the trade has increased materially between Canada and the West Indies, and that the aggregate trade with those islands is one million more than it was in 1878. I trust the hon. gentleman will see that he was misinformed, and that the National Policy has not destroyed that trade, but on the contrary has fostered it, and I hope that measures will be taken by the Government to extend our trade in that direction, and thus secure for us a market for many of our commodities in the West Indies. Another matter to which I would refer is the protection of our fisheries. We know that the Washington treaty expires on the 1st of July, and that, from information we have lately received as to the action taken by the American fishermen, in calling meetings and passing resolutions declaring that the treaty was injurious to them, there is no possibility of the treaty being renewed at present. I trust, therefore, that the Government will take energetic and active steps to protect our fishermen and keep the United States fishermen outside of the three-mile limit. I am also glad to see, by the resolutions before the House, that the Government propose to place a duty on American fish, similar to that which exists on our fish going into the United States. This will be to the benefit of the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces. A large quantity of fish is brought into Canada and sold in the western Provinces, but by the imposition of a duty the people of the Maritime Provinces will be able to supply the western Provinces—the markets of Ontario, as well as Manitoba and the North-West Territories—to some extent, I believe, without an increase of price to the

Mr. HACKETT.

consumer. I am glad to see that this system of the protection of the fishermen is receiving so much attention from the Government. The hon. member for Digby (Mr. Vail) says that the great cause of the discontent in the Maritime Provinces was that so large an amount of money was thrown away on the Canadian Pacific Railway. He said that millions and millions were thrown away on that work. Now I think that was a rash statement for the hon. gentleman to make. He was a member of the late Administration, in which he held an important position, and he knows it was the policy of his Government to build that railway. He knows that they entered into large expenses for building the line from Port Arthur to Selkirk. He knows they expended a large amount in making that famous historical work, the St. Francis locks. He knows they sent rails to British Columbia to build the railway west of the Rocky Mountains. He knows that they sent surveyors out to survey the line across the mountains; and while all this was being done, surely it was not done to deceive the people; surely there was some intention to honestly and faithfully carry out this work to which the Dominion was pledged. I am sorry indeed to find the hon. gentleman now find fault with the expenditure of money in the same way in which it was intended to be spent by the Government of which he was a member. But the hon. gentleman, to show that there is great discontent prevailing in the Maritime Provinces, stated that a resolution was before the Prince Edward Island Council and Assembly, looking to the placing of the claims of Prince Edward Island for steam communication with the mainland, winter and summer, at the foot of the Throne. That is a fact; the resolutions are there. The people of that island have suffered for want of this steam communication; they exhausted the constitutional means for the purpose of endeavoring to carry out that work, and they are now seeking constitutional redress by going to the foot of the Throne. But it is not because of any commercial depression in the island, or any discontent with the Confederation. The people are loyal and true to the Confederation. They accepted the terms with loyalty, and they remain loyal and true to their country. To show that there is no widespread discontent on the island, and that the people there are fairly prosperous, I will read an extract from the speech of his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, at the opening of the Sessions, on the 11th of March instant:

"Although, in some respects, the harvest was not so abundant as in other years, yet no cry of distress has been heard; while the steady advance which our people are making in material prosperity, the undisturbed public health and general contentment that prevails, are blessings for which we cannot be too heartily thankful and which it is our duty to acknowledge with feelings of the most sincere gratitude."

This shows that there is no discontent on Prince Edward Island, but, on the contrary, that there is general prosperity and that the people are content and happy. He goes on to say:

"It is indeed pleasing to notice, year after year, the advancement which is being made by our farmers in the science of agriculture as well as by other classes of the community in various manufactures and industries."

Thus showing that the people of Prince Edward Island are progressing in agricultural science, and that other industries are springing up over the island. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, that I need trouble the House at any greater length. I felt it my duty to make these few remarks, and I thank the House for the patient and considerate manner in which they have listened to me.

Mr. COCKBURN moved the adjournment of the debate. Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12:15 a.m., Saturday.