

Such is the exhibit shown in the Trade and Navigation Returns this year. With that exhibit in hand, every foe to Reciprocity living in the United States will successfully urge that "this condition is better than Reciprocity, we have our own and half the Canadian market, while the Canadian has only half his own, and no portion of our market. We have only to wait a little until Free-Trade principles take root there, and we will wholly occupy the Canadian market as well as our own." Lumbermen should make a note of this.

I believe, sir, that Canada can thrive under fair reciprocity with the United States. It did thrive under that system for eleven years. I further believe, that Canada can thrive under such a National Policy as would give our own markets to our own workers. We had experience of that from 1862 to 1872—during the period when Americans were so occupied in supplying their home demand that we had possession of our own markets—an abnormal condition, equivalent in its practical effect upon us, to a high protective tariff. I believe also, that if hostile ingenuity were to contrive a system for us under which we could not be expected to prosper, it would very nearly resemble the unequal and unfair one which now subsists between us and our neighbors, to which the present administration seems devotedly attached. The conditions in 1878, are so different from the conditions which existed in 1868, that a judicious readjustment of the tariff seems to be a most pressing necessity. It was my purpose to touch some other points involved in this great question, but I could not presume further upon the indulgence of the House at a very late hour.

It was my purpose to consider the *laissez faire*, "fly on the wheel" policy, or no policy, so frequently avowed by Ministers, and to show its inapplicability to a new and growing country like ours. The idea that trade should be as free as the air, is captivating to many; but other analogies are suggestive of great truths. The wise father does not give license to the exuberant energies of his son, but strives rather to educate, restrain and guide. Liberty is wisely fettered and its choicest blessings are secured by the restraints of wholesome law. The husbandman restrains the wild luxuriance of his vines and fruit trees and attains the best results by training, pruning, grafting, fostering and enriching them—in short, by adopting a moderately protective policy.

I intended, also, to consider what I deem a grand Free Trade fallacy, namely, that moderate protection invariably enhances the cost of goods to the consumer, and to show that, in most instances, home competition sufficiently reduces prices, and that, were it otherwise, the numerous indirect benefits of home manufactures and home markets would compensate for a very considerable enhancement of price. Who, for