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Is there any reason
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gentlemen: As has
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I could not there-
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out for me,—and I think such is the feeling of my colleagues here. But on some points which have been mentioned I am free to make a few comments; and in doing so I wish it to be distinctly understood that my remarks are not intended to advocate or oppose the Treaty in its general scope. They will tend rather,—if they have any influence at all,—to suggest to the minds of gentlemen at this Board some consideration of the effect of certain causes at present existing. In the course of the discussion we have heard very much that is instructive and interesting; and I may say for my colleagues as well as for myself, that we have been deeply gratified at the expression of kindly feeling towards our country and our people. Such comments as have occurred to me, in listening to this debate shall be briefly expressed; and in the first place, I must say that there is a strange coincidence in the fact that, on both sides of the border, the same objections are made to the Treaty by similar classes of persons. The National Association of Wool-Growers and Manufacturers of the United States have taken strong ground against it; and Mr. Speaker BLAINE has issued a very able manifesto in which, on behalf of the timber and ship interest of Maine, he assails the Treaty with a force and vigor not surpassed by any of its opponents here to-day. These same interests on this side are opposing the same clauses of the Treaty. With regard to some remarks made by a gentleman from London, respecting the prices which have prevailed for the agricultural productions of Western Canada since the abrogation of the former Treaty, he seems to lose sight of some concurrent circumstances. For several years the harvest in a great part of Europe has been a failure. When the countries in the vicinity of the Black Sea and the Baltic again turn out their usual extraordinary yield of grain for the supply of Western Europe, I should like to know what will be the prices of Canadian and American grain and flour? The prices will be fixed in Mark Lane for us both. On the other hand, at the time the old Treaty was abrogated our currency was terribly depreciated, gold being from 140 to 150; and the war had swept away our surplus production of cereals, from the effects of which we have not yet recovered. All these things have tended to make the prices of meats and breadstuffs high throughout the world. But we must now look to the future, when an abundant harvest in Europe and increased production in the United States may bring down the prices considerably below those which have ruled for a number of years. Then, only a few months ago, we underwent a terrible financial panic which seriously injured our industrial interests. But from this we are recovering, and we hope before long, when our currency is again upon a gold basis, and with our cheap production of iron and steel, to be able to throw open our doors to the free competition of the world. These circumstances, I submit, are worthy of your reflection. We have had an ebb of the tide, and are yet upon that ebb; but when the flow comes it will flow in our favor. I therefore submit that it is for you to consider, in deliberating upon your own interests, whether the experience of the past five or six years is that to which you are fairly to look for the next five or six years. Allusion has been made to the fact that the Treaty you have