

of the Committee for a few moments, by a reference to the state of our foreign trade,—that was, our trade with other countries besides Great Britain and the United States,—and in the first place he would refer to the trade of the Maritime Provinces. That trade had not been so large as had been desired, nor increased so rapidly as might have been expected, because under the Reciprocity Treaty they had obtained in the American markets the articles they might have obtained from us, which have been sent by us into the United States, and by the United States exported to the Maritime Provinces. The actual results, as comparing several years, were, that we had imported, in 1860, goods worth \$393,864, while in the fiscal year ending June, 1861, we imported \$511,570. Our exports have increased, during the same time, from \$723,534 to \$1,065,507, an increase of about 25 per cent. From the British West Indies the increase in trade had been more considerable. Our imports were \$15,802 in 1860, and \$209,327 in 1865. So there had, indeed, been a renewal of the trade with the West Indies we had formerly enjoyed.

The exports to the Maritime Provinces had risen from \$723,000 in 1860 to \$1,065,000 in 1865; and to West Indies from nil in 1860 to \$41,000 in 1865. But while that had been the case with our own West India islands our trade with the foreign West Indies were beginning to assume somewhat considerable dimensions. This was particularly the case as regarded Cuba; and he found that the value of articles imported from the foreign West Indies in 1864 was no less than \$1,480,000, of which there had come by way of the St. Lawrence \$255,000, by way of United States \$660,000, and Nova Scotia \$126,000. The general foreign trade of Canada amounted to so little three or four years ago that it was scarcely worthy of notice; in 1860 the total imports trade of Canada from foreign countries, except the United States, was only \$905,000, and in 1865, notwithstanding depressing influences of the American war, it had risen to \$3,274,000, or an increase of nearly four fold in that short period. (Hear, hear.) It now amounted to 8 per cent of our total exports of only 2½ per cent. It was gratifying to the Government, and he was certain was also gratifying to the House and country to know at a time when we were threatened with interruption of trade with the United States, we had trade with other foreign countries independent of British possessions which was growing with the rapidity indicated by these returns, a trade that now amounted to about one-tenth of the whole industry of the country, if trade with the United States were put an end to to-morrow. (Hear, hear.) These observations respecting our trade with the United States, the reciprocity treaty and our trade with foreign countries generally, acquired perhaps additional importance at this

moment, because we knew that by instructions from Imperial Government representatives of the different Provincial Governments would meet in this city during September next. It was peculiarly happy at this moment such a meeting as this was to take place because we had to consider two points in reference to our trade with the United States, we had to consider, first, what action should be taken in case the American Government undertook to enter into negotiations for a renewal of the treaty, and we had to consider, in the second place, what action should be taken if it declined to negotiate at all. Now it must be clear with reference to this trade of the maritime Provinces with Canada, that it is most important that this meeting should be held, and that a common understanding be arrived at by the representatives of the different Governments. He did not apprehend there would be the slightest difficulty in coming to an agreement on either one point or the other. The Canadian Government did not desire to engross the negotiations that might take place respecting the treaty. If they stood one they must consider the interests of the maritime provinces as their own, but on this occasion they would have those interests represented by gentlemen from the governments of those provinces themselves, and they would have the advantage of obtaining from those gentlemen information on points relating to those interests, and by this means he did not doubt they would be able to unite in placing before the Government at Washington the united views of those Governments of the Colonies, in reference to the trade with the United States, and especially with reference to the fisheries of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Nova Scotia, which formed such an important part of that trade, but if unfortunately we should be disappointed in our anticipations, that the American Government will enter into negotiations for the renewal of the treaty, then it would become more than necessary, that an understanding should be had with the Maritime Provinces in reference to the future of our treaty, it would become necessary with regard to supplies now obtained from the United States, with our means of transporting the production by the St. Lawrence to the west, for he did not doubt that even if the treaty were not renewed, the fish and other productions of the Lower Provinces would find a large sale in the Western States. It would also become necessary to understand what articles they wanted with which we could supply them, and what it would be advantageous to secure from them. This Government certainly felt that it would be advantageous to meet their representatives at this time on these and other grounds; and they hoped that the meeting would have results even beyond them. He did not refer now to political results, but to commercial simply; and he thought that they would be able by