

Treaty with exactly the same provisions, of exactly the same nature or of the same description as that of 1854. So the British Commissioners, finding that although a treaty similar to that of 1854 could not be obtained in words and detail, it might be obtained in spirit, and this view was strongly pressed upon the Joint Commission. This would appear from the protocol. It would also appear from the protocol that the United States Commissioners stated that the Reciprocity Treaty was out of the question, that it could not be accepted without being submitted to both branches of Congress, and there was not the slightest possibility of Congress passing such an Act, that the agreement by the two Governments to a Treaty including provisions similar in spirit to the Treaty of 1854 would only ensure the rejection of the Treaty by the Senate, and therefore that some solution must be found.

I believe that the United States Commissioners were candid and were accurate in their view of the situation. I believe that the Treaty being made at that time containing all the provisions or the essential provisions of the Treaty of 1854 would have secured its defeat. When I treat of the conferences that were held on the fisheries, I would state for the information of those members of the House who may be unacquainted with the usages in such matters that the Commissioners were not there sitting round a table individually as we are here in Parliament discussing our opinions, but that the conference was composed of two parties of the United States and England, there were two unions, there were no dissensions from either of the representatives or parties whatever individual opinions may have been.

If a question arose after discussion round the table on which the different delegates, either from England or the United States, did not express an opinion they removed and on their return they expressed whatever might be the individual opinions of the members who composed the delegation the view of their government and of the delegation of their nation. As an individual member of the British Commission and on behalf of Canada, when it was found that we could not obtain a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, I pressed that matters should be allowed to remain as they were, and that all means should be used to arrive in some way or other at a settlement of the disputed question in relation to the fisheries, to settle the headland, and to settle the other question in relation to trading in our ports by American fishermen. I would have been well satisfied, acting on behalf of the Canadian Government, if that had been adopted by the Imperial Government, but Her Majesty's Government felt and so instructed her Commissioners and it was so felt by the United States Commissioners that the leaving of the chance of collision between the American fishermen and Canadian fishermen, a matter of risk would destroy the great object of the whole conference, and the whole of the negotiations that were to restore the amicable relations and friendly feelings between the two nations. Therefore, Her Majesty's Government pressed

that this question should be allowed to remain in abeyance, and that some other settlement in the way of compensation to Canada should be found.

The protocol shows, Mr. Speaker, that the United States Government, through their Commissioners, made a considerable advance, or at least some advance, in the direction of Reciprocity, because they offered to exchange for our inshore fisheries in the first place the right to fish in their waters, whatever that might be worth, and they offered to admit Canadian coal, salt, fish, and after 1874, lumber. They offered Reciprocity in these articles. Although the offers made in respect to the admission of lumber were not so favourable as the last Treaty, this was a result of our efforts, and on behalf of Canada the British Commissioners said that they did not consider that that was a fair equivalent. (*Hear, hear.*)

It is not necessary that I should enter into all the discussions and arguments on that point, but it was pointed out by the British Commissioners that already a measure has passed one branch of the Legislature of the United States making coal and salt free, and stood ready to be passed by the other branch, the Senate. It was believed at that time that the American Congress for its own purpose and interest was about to take the duty off these articles, and therefore as they were going to do so, could not be fairly considered as in any way a compensation, as they were going to take off the duty whether there was a Treaty or not. Then, as regards the duty on lumber which was offered to be taken off in 1874, we pointed out that nearly a third of the whole of the time which the Treaty was proposed to exist would expire before the duty would be taken off the lumber and it was pointed out by the Commissioners that under those circumstances the offer could not be accepted as Canada had a fair right to demand compensation over and above these proposed reciprocal arrangements.

Now, Mr. Speaker, before that proposition was made I was in communication with my colleagues. The Canadian Government was exceedingly anxious that the original object should be carried out, but if we could not get reciprocity as it was in 1854 that we should be allowed to retain our fisheries until the question would be settled; but Her Majesty's Government taking a strong ground that their acceding to our wishes would be equivalent to an abandonment of carrying the Treaty into effect, the Canadian Government reluctantly said from a desire to meet Her Majesty's Government's views as much as possible, and not to allow it to be said by the Imperial authorities that from a selfish desire to obtain all our dues we had frustrated all the efforts of Her Majesty's Government, to secure peace we consented that these propositions should be made. And, so, that proposition was made to the United States, and although I do not know it as a matter of fact, I have reason to believe that if it had not been for the action of this Legislature last session we would now be passing an act for the purpose of ratifying a Treaty in which coal and salt and