

for us to consider most seriously and to deal with carefully. For instance, there is the fact as it seems to stand at present, that Great Britain has agreed to this treaty, and I believe our people have also agreed to it as it stands,—while the Americans have the right to amend and alter. I think it should come from this Board in the strongest and most definite terms, that any right of that kind should be mutual, and that we should have as much right to alter or amend the treaty (if it is to be subject to alteration) as the United States of America. (Hear, hear.) There is another point also which, if it came to amendment, could be properly altered, and which on the face of it is unfair; that is, the reduction of the duties in the proportion of a third every year. When their duty is over 50 per cent. and ours 17½ per cent., in two years they will practically be entering Canada free, while we shall be paying almost as much as they have ever been paying. Another point on which I think this Board ought to speak strongly, is the postponement of the arbitration on the value of the fisheries during these negotiations. There is no reason why it should not go on, and every reason why it should not be stopped. There may, possibly, never be a treaty; and the result of a postponement of proceedings for a year or a year and a half may be serious. Arrangements have been made for an arbitration; and I think it should come as an emphatic opinion from this Board, that arbitration should be proceeded with without reference to the contemplated treaty. You have in your hands this session most serious important work. You have, therefore, the power of influencing the country to the largest extent on a question in which the greatest interest is taken. In conclusion,—with reference to this subject, I must remind you that this Board has again and again declared in favor of Reciprocity covering the old treaty, and anything to the contrary would be stultifying the deliberate action taken in the past. The shape in which this matter will probably come before you will be the consideration of any additions to or alterations of the old treaty—the principle being already acknowledged. I hope you will avoid generalizing on the question, and that you will be particular, and direct, and positive, on the points to which you speak; and I am sure that in that way we will be able to arrive at a fair and impartial decision on the question, which will probably be accepted by the country at large as the true one. (Applause).

Mr. THOS. WHITE, Jr., (Montreal), moved :

"That during the present adjourned session of the Dominion Board of Trade, no written papers be received or read on any subject."

Mr. ROBERT MARSHALL, (St. John) seconded the motion.

Mr. JOHN GILLESPIE (Toronto)—I hope the portion of the resolution proposing not to "receive" will be struck out, because the receiving of papers will not take up any time; and it might be discourteous to refuse to receive them, when it would not occupy the time of the Board, or militate against its proceedings.

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