

Government and French people so that we may hope that they will find that we can give them something by reducing our duties, and that they can give us something by reducing theirs, thus giving us reciprocity. So, Sir, during our short period of three years or a little more, we have not been idle. We have pressed the claims of Canada in England, to have her interests urged in all foreign ports. That has been granted in no stinted or restricted manner. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's despatch, which was read by the hon. gentleman, was the inception of the negotiations for giving a higher status to Canadian commerce and more direct means of communication with the various nations. Things have gone on rapidly since that time and we may hope, we know, experience shows, the manner in which Sir Alexander Galt has acted, that we are only in the beginning of a great enterprise of this kind. The despatch of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was guarded as a despatch at the opening of negotiations and from the representative of England should have been. We have received, as I have already told you, perhaps at too great length, not only the assurances, but those assurances carried into action, as well as the earnest co-operation of the Mother Country to strengthen our hands. The hon. gentleman pooh, pooh's the idea of war arising out of the breach of commercial treaties. Sir, war may not break out, but what is nearly as bad, in a commercial point of view, a cessation of political intercourse may take place. At this very day, and for years and years there has been no diplomatic communication of any kind between England and Mexico in consequence of the action of Mexico in matters in which England thought she was injured. There is no communication now between them, considerably to the interruption of trade between the Mother Country and that nation. But, Mr. Speaker, commercial treaties do not signify merely the interchange of commodities. The Reciprocity Treaty was not only an arrangement, a convention, a bargain for the interchange of commodities, free or at a regulated duty, but it handed over for a consideration the rights of fishing in our waters. We know, Mr. Speaker, what trouble Canada has had respecting these same fisheries, what expense Great Britain has been put to to guard our rights, and that a serious and angry diplomatic correspondence with the United States occurred because she upheld the interests of Canada with respect to those fisheries, and we know that Her Majesty's ships and Her Majesty's seamen have been employed in guarding and protecting Canadian interests there without asking us to pay a single farthing of the cost. I think we would not be benefitted by becoming in effect an independent nation, making our own treaties and being obliged to enforce them or to submit to the breach of them without any means of protecting them. Now, Sir, we have England at our back. England, if a treaty is once made with her, whether it affects her Canadian subjects or her South African subjects, or the people of England, Ireland or Scotland, will use the whole force of the Empire—I do not say necessarily in war, but will bring the whole force of her national prestige to bear—in vindicating the rights sanctioned by those treaties. I think we would be penny wise and pound foolish if we—for the sake of a little immediate advantage and for the purpose of avoiding a few delays by the round-about-way of communicating by the Foreign Office or the Colonial Office, and in order to have more speedy communication, and the immediate advantage of having a treaty made for the benefit of Canada—threw away the advantage we now have in having all our treaties made between Great Britain and the nation, not between Canada and the nation. If this be so, Mr. Speaker, I think these resolutions will do no harm in England. Disguise it as you will, this means separation and independence. The hon. gentleman is moving on by slow degrees to that point. This is a commercial movement; by-and-bye we will have something

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else; until at last we take a step for political independence. I have said to the House before, that a British subject I was born, and a British subject I hope to die. The best interests of Canada are all involved in the connection between the Mother Country and her loving and loyal colony. I think the adoption of this resolution would do a great deal of harm. I think it would be calculated to frustrate and obstruct the kind assistance that we have received from England. England might say at once, if you are going to have ambassadors of your own, if you are going to make your own treaties, we will no longer trouble ourselves about you, fight your own battles, do your own business, and see what you will make of it. The people of this country do not want that. They desire the continuance of this connection, and they believe as they give a most loyal affection to the Mother Country, so they believe the results to Canada, morally, financially and in every way, will be to enhance the progress of the country, and that we will receive the strongly pledged and never forgotten promise of the Government of England that they will stand by us, that they will not treat us as strangers but as a portion of the great British Empire, bound by loving ties to the Mother Country though separated by miles of sea. I think this resolution is a boastful assertion of our coming strength discounting our future, containing an ill-concealed wish that this should be the stepping stone to something further, that in some way our independence should increase and our dependence and support decrease, and that we should, as soon as convenient, be cast upon our own resources. This, Sir, would be an injury, a destruction, a ruin to Canada.

It being Six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were severally considered in Committee, reported, read the third time and passed:—

Bill (No. 80) respecting the River St. Clair Railway Tunnel Company.—(Mr. Arkell.)

Bill No. (95) to amend the Act incorporating "The Bell Telephone Company of Canada."—(Mr. Cameron, Victoria.)

Bill (No. 97) to incorporate the Calais and St. Stephen's Railway Bridge Company.—(Mr. Weldon.)

Bill (No. 114) respecting the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway.—(Mr. Abbott.)

THE TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 35) to amend the Acts relating to the Trust and Loan Company of Canada, and for enlarging the powers of the said Company.

Motion agreed to; and House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Bill reported.

On the motion for third reading,

Mr. WALLACE moved, that the Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be referred back to Committee of the Whole for amendment, inserting the words "not exceeding 8 per cent. per annum" after the word "whatsoever," in the third clause. He said: I think 8 per cent. is a sufficient rate of interest for any loan company. It is said that by making a limitation of the rate of interest, we should prevent money from coming into the country. This Company has been doing business in the country for a very long time, and has been satisfied with 8 per cent. and I see no reason now why that rate should be increased. In fact I think it rather ought to be decreased. Money is lent the farmers at such a ruinous rate of interest as it is impossible