

the leaving of the chance of collision between the American fishermen and the Canadian fishermen a matter of possibility would destroy or greatly prejudice the great object of the negotiations that were to restore the amicable relations and friendly feelings between the two nations, and therefore Her Majesty's Government pressed that these questions 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, 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. 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 had 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 in the interest of the American people, was about to take the duty of these articles, and therefore the remission could not be considered as in any way a compensation, as Congress was 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 for which the Treaty was proposed to exist would expire before the duty would be taken off our lumber. The British Commissioners urged that under those circumstances the offer could not be considered as a fair one, and that 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, that if we could not get reciprocity as it was in 1854, that we should be allowed to retain our fisheries, and that the questions in dispute should be settled, but Her Majesty's Government taking the 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 that from a desire to meet Her Majesty's Government's views as much as possible, and not to allow it to be felt in England that from a selfish desire to obtain all we desired we had frustrated the efforts of Her Majesty's Government, to secure peace, we consented that the propositions I have mentioned should be made, and so that proposition was made to the United States. Although I do not know it as a matter

of certainty, I have reason to believe that if it had not been for the action of this Legislature last session we should now be passing an act for the purpose of ratifying a Treaty in which coal, salt and lumber from Canada would be received into the United States free of duty.—(Hear, hear.) I have reason to believe that had it not been for the interposition of this Legislature—and I speak now of political friends as well as foes—those terms which were offered by the United States would have been a portion of the Treaty instead of its standing, as it does now.—(Applause.) I will tell the House why I say so. The offer was made early by the United States Government. The answer made by the British Commissioners was, that under the circumstances it was not a fair and adequate compensation for the privileges that were asked, and the British Commissioners at the suggestion of the Canadian Government referred the question to Her Majesty's Government whether they had not a right in addition to this offer of the United States to expect a pecuniary compensation, that pecuniary compensation to be settled in some way or other. That took place on the 25th of March, 1871. On the 25th of March I think the final proposition was made by the U. S. Government, and on the 22nd March, only two days before, the resolution carried in this House by which the duty was taken off coal and salt and the other articles mentioned. Before that resolution was carried here no feeling was expressed in the United States against the taking off the duty on Canadian coal and salt into the United States; no one raised any difficulty about it. I am as well satisfied as I can be of any thing which I did not see occur that the admission of Canadian coal and salt into the United States would have been placed in the Treaty if it had not been for the action of this Legislature. On the 25th of March that offer was made, and it was referred to England. The English Government stated that they quite agreed in the opinion that in addition to that offer there should be compensation in money, and then on the 17th of April the American Commissioners withdrew as they had the right to do their offer altogether. And why did they withdraw the offer altogether? One of the Commissioners in conversation said to me "I am quite surprised to find the opposition that has sprung up to the admission of Canadian coal and salt into our market. I was unprepared for the feeling that is exhibited." I knew right well what the reason was. The monopolists having the control of American coal in Pennsylvania and salt in New York, so long as the Treaty would open to them the markets in Canada for their products were willing that it should carry, because they would have the advantage of both markets but when the duty was taken off in Canada, when you had opened our market to them, when they had the whole control of their own market and free access to ours, whether for coal or salt, the monopolists brought down all their energies upon their friends in Congress, and through