

and obtain all necessary information with reference to a reciprocal treaty with that province. The committee visited the island, and a draft treaty was drawn up and submitted to the Imperial Government, which, however, declined to take any steps at that time.

415. Various propositions were made at different times by the Dominion Government with reference to a new treaty, but with no result. At the time when the Washington Treaty was being prepared, endeavours were made by the British Commissioners to settle the fishery question on the basis of reciprocity, but to this the United States would not consent.

416. On 17th March, 1874, Sir Edward Thornton and the Honourable George Brown were appointed Joint Plenipotentiaries on the part of Her Majesty to negotiate a treaty of fisheries, commerce and navigation, with the Government of the United States. Negotiations were commenced at Washington, on 28th March following, and were continued until the end of June, when Congress adjourned without any result having been arrived at.

417. Sir Charles Tupper, under the administration of Sir John Macdonald, acting with the British Minister at Washington, while negotiating in 1887-88 for a Fishery Treaty, urged the consideration of an agreement for reciprocal trade, but the United States representatives declined to discuss the subject. The Fishery Treaty, when made and accepted by the President, was rejected by the Senate.

418. Other approaches, which cannot be called negotiations by Canadian Commissioners, were repeatedly made by Canada to the United States, through the British ministry and ambassadors, and by other means, but nothing came out of them.

419. The Statutes of Canada have held out a permanent offer to the United States of reciprocal trade in a long list of articles. At present this statutory offer in our Customs Duties Act comprises fish and other products of the fisheries, eggs, shingles and pulp-wood, green or ripe apples, beans, buckwheat, pease, potatoes, rye, rye-flour, hay, vegetables fresh or dry salted, barley and Indian corn.

420. It may be added that for the first few years both parties to the Treaty appear to have been satisfied with its working. The crisis of 1857, followed by the civil war, created antagonisms in the United States. The friends of the Treaty in that country endeavoured to extend reciprocity, in 1858, with respect to hay and hops which were not included in the list of articles made free under Article III, but the effort failed of success.

In March, 1860, the House of Representatives passed a resolution asking the President to procure information relative to the working of the Treaty. From time to time since and before that date elaborate reports were made to the United States House of Representatives Committee.