

its intention to terminate the treaty, and that notice was given to the Government of England, I assume, and not of Canada; but of course the Government of Canada was bound to take cognizance of so important a matter. It seems to me a very proper subject for the attention of Parliament, and the Government might invite their opinion as to the policy of the country in connection with a Commercial treaty with the United States. The expiring treaty affected us not alone in relation to the export of our fish and fish oil, but it also contained important provisions bearing on the prosperity of this country. It made provision for the bonded system from the ports of the United States, which we necessarily must use for certain periods of the year. If those two years were allowed to elapse, and no provision were made for important subjects of this kind, the people of this country might fairly say that the Government had failed in its duty. I think myself it is not too soon to consider the course which should be adopted in the future. If we are to drift along until next year, and nothing is done, it is impossible to say how serious the consequences may be. Whatever we do has to be done through the Imperial Government, all negotiations having to be filtered through that quarter. No doubt that Government would allow us to appoint our own commissioner. Still we know that negotiations between Governments are very slow in their progress, and a very considerable time will elapse before an understanding can be come to with the Government of the United States, if they adhere—as I fear they will—to the conclusion at which they have arrived, to terminate that treaty. I therefore think it is a very serious omission on the present occasion, because if the Government ask for authority at the next session (1885) they will have but a comparatively few months in which to consider this question and come to some arrangement with the United States, and very injurious consequences might follow.

The next paragraph is not an important one, still it has some consequences. We are told that the process of consolidating the Statutes has been going on, and that some sixty chapters are ready. I was under the impression that this consolidation had been in progress for upwards of two years

—though I may be mistaken—and I presumed that a considerable part of it, at all events the criminal law, would have been ready for our consideration during the present session. Sixty chapters is not very great progress to make in a period of two years.

The next paragraph alludes to the number of immigrants that have come to Canada during the past season, and expresses gratification that the number has been in excess of former years. I am not disposed to acquiesce in the opinion that there has been this large increase to the population of the country. It is a controversy, of course, that it is idle to open on the present occasion, and it is one which, even when we get the figures, is a good deal discussed and debated. Figures can be made to yield very extraordinary results, and figures have been given to us on this question, which have heretofore been very much commented on, and which have been open to criticism. We have, at all events, this fact prominently brought out—that the British Minister at Washington not long ago reported a very large exodus from Canada, and it is believed by very many that there has been a considerable diminution in the population of Ontario, by reason of their going either to the North-West or to the Western States. It would be unreasonable to assume that people passing from one province to another should be regarded as an accession of immigrants, and I am inclined to think that, if the amount has been made up in that way, as I fear it has, the result when analysed will be found to be very elusive.

We are glad to hear, no doubt, that the negotiations with British Columbia have been satisfactorily brought to a termination, and that all causes for discontent have been removed by the gentleman who has been deputed to perform that duty—the Minister of Justice. I cannot but remember that on a former occasion, nearly ten years ago now, when the Government of Mr. Mackenzie proposed to build the Island Railway, or to assist in the building of that Railway, the present Minister of Justice did not then give it his assent and support; on the contrary he, as the leader of the majority of the members in this House, opposed it, and succeeded in throwing out the Bill. At that time he did not believe