

The American dealers will soon find that they cannot in their own waters catch sufficient to supply their own markets, and the American people will find that they have to pay too high a price for their fish. We will then be able to send our fish into the United States in the face of their high protective duty, and compete successfully with the American fishermen in the markets of their own country. In addition to that we are opening up a large trade with the people of Western Canada. We find that we can send our fish up this far, and soon we will send them very much further into the interior of the country. Our great North-West will find also that instead of allowing United States fish dealers to be the middle men to pack and sell the fish of the Lower Provinces we can do it ourselves, and send it to other markets. We, of necessity, are becoming alive to the importance of encouraging that industry and opening up new markets, and I believe that in the end, instead of having to go to Washington and humble ourselves there by asking the United States authorities to continue the Fishery Treaty, that they will find it in their own interest to come to us for the right of free fishing in our waters in exchange for free markets in the United States. I differ from my hon. friend when he says that this Government did wrong in allowing United States fishermen to fish in our waters after the abrogation of the Treaty. I am deeply interested in fisheries myself. The people of the County of Lunenburg, from which I come, catch half the fish that is exported from the Province of Nova Scotia, and I am directly and indirectly largely interested in that branch of industry. The feeling there was that if we had protected our fisheries and routed the United States fishermen after the lapse of the Treaty, we would not be in a fair position to negotiate for a continuance of the Treaty. We felt that if we granted that concession last year it would be a step towards not only a renewal of the fisheries Treaty, but also towards securing reciprocity on a larger scale. We felt that the Government had done their duty; that instead of provoking the hostility of the people of the United States, and incurring enormous expense to fit out a marine police, they have done better by extending the olive branch

and showing a disposition to meet the American Government half way. I hope that our neighbors will yet have a better mind on this subject. I believe the vast majority of the people of United States, have not yet looked into the matter. The fishing people in Gloucester and Cape Ann, and along the shores of the Eastern States have been aggressive on this question, but the time is coming when the whole of the people of the United States will become alive to the importance of this matter, and will see that they are being heavily taxed to put money in the pockets of a few fishermen in the Eastern States. In this connection I hope that the Washington Government will be generous enough to return to us the moneys they have taken from us unfairly in the shape of duties on fish, since the abrogation of the treaty, and I draw the attention of the Government to that point. Our fisheries this year have been prosperous; the catch was large, but in consequence of a want of good markets the fishermen are no better off than they were at an earlier period of the fishing season. The country must see that we are not now and have not been for the last year, in a position to ask the United States to continue the treaty. The late administration in the United States, we know, was adverse to the Fishery Treaty. Both branches of Congress had given notice that they intended to terminate the treaty. We could not approach them and ask them to stultify their own action. We knew better than that; we knew that a general election was coming off in the United States; that there was a hostile feeling in certain quarters against everything British, and both of the great political parties felt that they could not take up this important question. Party lines were drawn so closely it was felt that if they touched any one industry or prejudiced any particular class in the United States it might prejudice the elections, and we could not ask anything from them. But when the new President of the United States said he would recommend to Congress not only free fishing and free markets, but a general extension of reciprocal trade between the two countries—I say when we had such a suggestion from the new President of the United States, who had the support of a large and influential party in Congress,