

millions of dollars would be obtained for the use by American fishermen of our waters, but we now find that the Government are checking the proceedings, instead of going on with this arbitration. A Commissioner was sent to Washington to barter away these rights for a reciprocity treaty—a most ruinous project—and not only to barter away our fisheries, but sacrifice all our rights, and give the Americans the use of our market, making of ourselves forever the hewers of wood and the drawers of water for our neighbours on the opposite side of the line; therefore, I say that I cannot approve of the second clause, the Government not having done everything in their power to expedite the termination of this arbitration. I believe that we stand in a worse position at present in this relation than we have occupied in the past, and we cannot expect to receive the compensation that we otherwise would secure.

Hon. Mr. VIDAL—In commenting briefly upon the Speech from the Throne, I would ask the attention of hon. members for one moment to its omission of any reference to a matter which I think, was entitled to recognition, owing to the action of the Senate in regard to it. I refer to the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors. We came to a determination last session on this point, and the Government, as far as practicable, should endeavour to carry out the wishes of this House. I find it recorded on the journals, that this Chamber, by a considerable majority, adopted a Report of its Committee affirming that the time has now arrived when the attention of the Government should be given to this important matter—prohibition—and to the introduction of a bill prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors. Hon. gentlemen will observe that the record of the views of this House is clear, definite and distinct, and must, as we are bound naturally to suppose, attract the notice of the Government, unless this House is to be ignored altogether, and really in some respects it seems as if our solemn decisions were of no moment whatever. I must say that I think that the omission of any allusion whatever to this very important question, is decidedly a mark of disrespect, to say the least of it, towards this chamber, whatever we may think of the views which may be taken by our rulers of that great evil, intemperance, the curse of our country. It is in fact a question of greater impor-

tance relative to our material, moral and intellectual progress and interests than any other. I say this without fear of contradiction, and although the attention of the Administration has been directly called to it by this branch, and in almost as strong terms by the other branch of the Legislature, the Government seem to have treated with the greatest disrespect—yea, even with contemptuous silence—the solemn resolution of this House, in reference to a matter deeply affecting the well being, prosperity and happiness of the entire country. I must express my deep regret that a matter of such moment should receive no notice whatever in His Excellency's speech. But while thus commenting on the omission, I feel bound to express my great satisfaction with one clause I find in the Speech, and that is the necessity which the Government have discovered for the collection of statistics concerning the commission of crime. This is a most important matter, especially with reference to the great question to which I have alluded, for I am perfectly satisfied that when we have an authentic statement of the vast amount of the crime and misery, and the number of deaths caused by the too free use of intoxicating liquors presented to the Parliament of this country, it will be felt by members to be a question which cannot be set aside or ignored in the faithful performance of their duty towards themselves, their families, and the country at large. I rejoice therefore that an intention is expressed of collecting these statistics, and I trust that very great care will be taken to ascertain where intoxication is the more immediate cause leading to the commission of crimes, in order that we may have authentic evidence on which to base our action with respect to the connection existing between intemperance and crime.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Victoria)—Although the trade and revenue of British Columbia form but an insignificant part of the trade and revenue of the Dominion, yet in the midst of so many dismal cries of depression, I think it just to state, and it may be pleasing to some hon. gentlemen to know, that the general depression did not affect our Province. During the first part of 1875 trade was good. The gold mines yielded well; our coal mining and lumbering interests were in a prosperous condition; our crops were good, and owing to the state of the California market, farmers obtained good prices. All that we