

the House to go on, and I stated that it was the duty of the Minister of Marine to come to the House and ask for an appropriation of \$100,000 to put on the necessary protection for our fisheries, in justice to our own fishermen, as well as for the purpose of letting our American friends see that we are determined and prepared to protect them. It was stated that such was the policy of the Government, but I am bound to say that that policy has not been carried out. Another year came round, and a sum of \$50,000 was granted for the purpose of putting on the necessary protection. No protection has been put on, and the right hon. gentleman gives us his reasons that friendly negotiations were going on which he hoped would result in a different way. That may be a sufficient explanation, but it strikes me, as I stated at the time, that the way to have effective negotiations was to show the people with whom we negotiate that we were in earnest in our determination to give that protection to our fishermen which they had the right to expect. The people of the eastern section of the country had a right to that protection and it was not extended. I regret that it was not done, especially while a Minister from the eastern portion of the Dominion was at the head of the Department. He should have realised what was his duty on that occasion, and what were the rights and privileges of the people of the section from which he comes. I feel now that, whatever our chances might have been, if we had taken the proper steps to show that Parliament meant business, and meant to protect our interests, those chances are infinitely less now than they would have been. But it is better late than never; and I trust this Session will not be allowed to pass, and that a day, or at least a week, will not be allowed to pass, without the Government taking steps to utilise the money voted last year for the purpose of placing on our coasts, as soon as the season opens, a sufficient number of vessels to protect our fisheries, and that an additional vote will be taken this Session for the purpose of making that system complete. We have heard through the Government press of the protection given to the fisheries; that as soon as our Government found out that the Americans did not intend renewing the treaty—at all events as soon as the report of the committee was made against granting a renewal of the Fishery Treaty with the Canadian authorities they had taken steps to afford our fisheries the necessary protection. There has been no protection granted; our fisheries have been neglected. The fishing for bait—as my hon. friend from Charlotte (Mr. Gillmor) knows very well—has been going on to an enormous extent and no protection has been granted so far as I have seen, except what has been stated by some of the Government organs, and those statements have been made without any date or details. From every source of information I could find it appears that no decided action has been taken, no practical steps taken, to protect our fisheries, even since the committee reported to the United States Senate against a renewal of the treaty. I shall not take up any further time now, as it is probable the matter will be fully discussed on another occasion; but I trust the new Minister of Fisheries, young, energetic, and I hope desirous of earning a reputation for himself, will not let any further delay take place, and that he will not neglect giving that protection to the fisheries which the people of the Maritime Provinces have a right to expect. Before I sit down, I might as well say one word upon another subject. While references have been made to the prosperity that exists in the eastern Provinces of this Dominion, and to the fact that the people there have large deposits in the savings banks, and have as much comfort and happiness and employment as they ever had, I may say that I have seen it recently stated, and have received communications from some of my own constituents stating that a large number of men have been dismissed from the Intercolonial Railway—that people who have been years in the ser-

Mr. MITCHELL.

vice have been dismissed, and at a season of the year when they can get no employment elsewhere. I want to appeal to hon. gentlemen that this is no time to dismiss men from the service. They had better keep them on until the spring, when they could get employment elsewhere, because some of them are most destitute and have written piteous letters pointing out the great hardships they have suffered from dismissal at this season when they could get no employment from any other source.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I rise to correct an error, no doubt unintentional, in the statement of the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Davies). He stated that as soon as Parliament was prorogued last Session the Government gave up the right to the fisheries after the 1st of July last—that they hurried off to Washington. The hon. gentleman will find that the whole of that correspondence was brought down by a special Message of the Governor General on the 9th of July, 1885. The hon. gentleman may also recollect that there was a debate on the subject afterwards, in which the hon. gentleman who has just spoken said he approved of the course of the Government under the circumstances in allowing American fishermen to fish in our waters.

Mr. MITCHELL. I said that while I approved of that while negotiations were going on, I thought steps should be taken to put on a force, or at all events to get ready for it.

Paragraphs 1 to 12, inclusive and Resolution agreed to:

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That the said Resolution be referred to a Select Committee composed of Sir Hector Langevin, Messrs. Bowell, Everett, Ward and the mover, to prepare and report a draft of an Address in answer to the Speech of His Excellency to both Houses of Parliament, in conformity with the said Resolution.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, from the committee, reported the draft of an Address, which was read the first and the second time and ordered to be engrossed and to be presented to His Excellency by such members of this House as are members of the Privy Council.

DEBATES COMMITTEE.

Mr. BOWELL. With the consent of the House I will make the usual motion for the appointment of a committee to supervise the Debates:

That a Select Committee be appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of this House during the present Session, with power to report from time to time, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Bechard, Bergin, Colby, Charlton, Desjardins, Innes, Royal, Scriver, Somerville, (Brant), Taylor, Wood (Westmoreland), and Woodworth.

The only changes are the substitution of the names of Mr. Taylor for that of Mr. White, the Minister of the Interior, and the name of Mr. Wood, of Westmoreland, for that of Mr. Foster.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY.

Mr. McLELAN moved:

That this House will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a committee to consider of a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Mr. McLELAN moved:

That this House will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion agreed to.