

they have British Consuls, and accredited representatives to consult. On every sea, they find a British cruiser to protect them in the time of war. We must remember that in time of war we have always been defended, and we have the pledge of the protection of the whole Empire in case of danger hereafter. If we enjoy advantages like these we should certainly be prepared to make some sacrifices for the benefit of the Empire; but I do not believe that the sacrifices which we are called upon to make are as great as some persons estimate them. I am not prepared, however, to admit that the right of sending fish into the American market when we have all the markets of the world open to us, is going to be of such great benefit to the fishing interest. The benefit of such an arrangement can only be seen after a time. If we find that the price of fish keeps as high in the United States market as heretofore then our fishermen will be benefited to the extent of duty exacted, and it will be a great advantage to us to send our fish there. On the other hand, if we find that fish is regulated as to price in Halifax and St. John, by the markets of the world, and that the fish caught by the United States comes down to the same value, then it will be the consumers in the United States and not our fishermen who will receive the benefit. I hope the Minister of Marine will keep this point in view when he goes to submit the claims of Canada for additional compensation. I am a free trader, and believe it is generally the consumer who pays the duty. I have carefully considered the position of this country in connection with the Reciprocity Treaty, and hold strong views on the subject. The great interest of Ontario is agriculture, and the people of the Province considered it a great advantage to get their products into the United States free of duty. It is most important, however, to obtain a market in a country that does not produce itself—there is a great advantage in an interchange of different commodities. I fail to see the benefit of sending our agricultural commodities into a country that produces more than it consumes. The United States have been always the exporters of flour: where then is the advantage of sending Canadian flour into the United States. It might be they would not export the same article they got from us, but then the Americans consumed less of their own products and exported more to foreign markets. The profits of our agricultural interest accordingly went into the United States, the commodities of Canada were carried through American canals and over American rail-

ways, and distributed to foreign markets by American ships. So the United States actually derived all the benefit from this trade under the Reciprocity Treaty. I believe the repeal of the Treaty has injured the Americans more than it has Canada, and that we have been learning the benefits of self-reliance. I do not think that it will be for our advantage to have a Reciprocity Treaty immediately—we have still a good deal to learn in the way of making ourselves independent of the United States in the matter of commerce. Many other points connected with the question suggest themselves to my mind, but like other gentlemen, I feel that it has already been sufficiently discussed in Parliament and in the Press; but this I may say with respect to the position of Sir John Macdonald that when a man accepts an appointment to negotiate a Treaty he ceases to be responsible to anyone except the power that appoints him. The whole responsibility rests on the Ministry of Great Britain, and the Commissioner had simply to act in accordance with its instructions and certainly cannot be held responsible to anybody else. I think on the whole we owe it to the country under whose protection we have enjoyed so many advantages to make some sacrifices in case she thinks proper to ask them at our hands.

Hon. Mr. DICKEY said: It is impossible to approach the consideration of the Treaty, which this bill purposes to ratify, without being impressed with the gravity of the subject. This Treaty has during the past twelvemonths been the subject of anxious and thoughtful deliberation by the leading statesmen of the two foremost nations of the world, by the press everywhere, and by the friends of peace in every civilized land. It is not necessary to enter upon a lengthened discussion of the comparative merits of the provisions of the Treaty, and yet it is due to the Senate that so important a measure should not be accepted or rejected without discussion. In this sentiment I entirely concur with my Hon. friend on my left (Hon. Mr. Letellier), but I differ from him in the reasons he gives for opposing that Treaty. He complains that Canadian interests have been bartered away for Alabama claims. Why if my Hon. friend had read the printed correspondence, he must have known that the proposal of the British Minister was only to refer the Fishery question and other questions affecting Canada, and that it was the American Secretary of State who proposed that the Alabama claims should be included in the reference. Besides, had the Alaba-