

should be in a position to give some information in reference to this matter. I know a little about it, more, perhaps, than I have stated to the House. When I spoke before, I did not mention the fact, which is a very important fact, that both France and Germany are placed in the same position as the United States with regard to the entry of goods in Porto Rico and Cuba. What excuse is there for any arrangements of this kind going on without the Government keeping itself cognisant of them, and calling the attention of the British Government to the fact that here are three other nations which enjoy the privilege from which the British people and colonists are shut out? A long correspondence has taken place between the British Government and the Government of Spain with regard to the trade relations between the two countries. The reason given by Spain for making a special arrangement with the United States was that the United States people are near neighbors of the islands in question. I think our commissioner should have told the British Government, if the British Government did not know it, that the people of the Dominion of Canada are also near neighbors of those islands as well as the people of the United States, and if Spain saw good reasons for giving advantages to the United States on that ground, they had certainly good reason on the same ground for giving our people the same advantages. Our people have been laboring under this disadvantage and our trade has been suffering in consequence, when, I am satisfied, if the Dominion Government had done their duty in pointing this out to the British Government, there is no reason why this restriction should have remained to operate against us. Because the United States Government charged goods from Porto Rico and Cuba 10 per cent. more than they charged other goods, and agreed to remove this extra charge on condition that they should have these advantages, there is no reason why Spain should refuse to cede this right to the people of the Dominion or to the British people, because it is well known that England is a free trade country and goods are admitted to England at a much lower rate of duty than they are admitted into the United States. The leader of the Government last year in answer to the leader of the Opposition said:

"I think Canada will have more than a fair chance of making an advantageous treaty. I can only assure the hon. gentleman that there will be no neglect, but that there will be continual watchfulness and pressure on the part of the Canadian Government upon the Government of Spain; in the first place, directly through our own officers, and then constantly, every day, through the intervention of Her Majesty's Ambassador."

Is it then unreasonable for any hon. gentleman in this House to ask the Government whether their reticence and apparent want of action is in accordance with the statements made by the leader of the Government last year that this subject had been pressed every day on the Spanish Government. What is the result of that constant pressure? The Government should say whether they have had any answer from the British and Spanish Governments, through the ambassador spoken of in the remarks, which I have quoted, by the leader of the Government. If so, let us have it. Do not let three years pass, after having led the people to suppose something would be done within a given time, without telling us what has been done. I must say the Government have been neglectful of their duties in this matter, when they are not in a position to state that some progress has been made, and that within a given time we will have the restriction that bears so heavily on our commerce removed.

Motion agreed to.

#### MEMORIAL OF THE NORTH-WEST COUNCIL.

Mr. WATSON moved for:

Address to His Excellency the Governor-General for a copy of the memorial of the North-West Council presented to the Government by

Messrs. Wilson and Ross, members of said Council, and of any answer made to said memorial and of any correspondence between the Government and the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories or other parties in reference thereto.

He said: This memorandum ought to be laid on the Table and the House made acquainted with the facts and statements it contains. The North-West has no power to send representatives to this House, so that the only means we have of acquiring knowledge of the local requirements of the people of that section is the representations made through the North-West Council. As a member of this House I feel that the Government ought to make provision, at the earliest possible moment, for local representation from those Territories, so that representatives would be elected there so that they would have part in making the laws that govern the country. The Government will find they are making a great mistake, if they think they will govern that country successfully by appointing a number of men from Ottawa to act as the representatives of that section, to make laws to govern its people. The North-West Territories to-day have as large a population as the Province of Manitoba had when it was granted responsible Local Government, and I do not see any reason why the Territories should not be granted as many privileges as are possessed by any other portion of the Dominion. The Government must have correspondence from the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West with reference to the last Session of the Council, as we are aware, from what has appeared in the press, that they had a very lively time, and that the Lieutenant-Governor and his following, if I may call them so, the members of the Council who are appointed by the Government, were defeated by the voice of the people, notwithstanding all the patronage of the Government in that section of the country. The result was that a very strong memorial was drafted, setting forth the grievances and the requirements of that section of the country against the Government at Ottawa, and that a deputation was appointed, as stated in this resolution. As I hope that this memorial will be laid before the House in time to be considered before the close of the Session, I shall not at present detain the House any further.

Motion agreed to.

#### LIFE-SAVING SERVICE AT PORT ROWAN.

Mr. JACKSON moved for:

Copies of correspondence, not already brought down, between the Government and the captain of any of the crew of the life-saving service at Port Rowan, Province of Ontario.

He said: I called the attention of the hon. the Minister of Marine to the inefficiency of the life-saving service at Port Rowan in 1884 and again in 1885. On those occasions I pointed out to the Minister that that was one of the most exposed points on the whole of the inland waters; I pointed out that there had been more loss of life and property in the vicinity of Long Point than at any other place on the chain of lakes; I stated that the service was not properly provided for, that the men were only provided with a second or third-class boat, that they were not provided with life jackets or even with common life preservers, that they had no lines nor mortars, which are essential on some occasions, as in 1883, when the brig *Siberia* was wrecked there, and the crew had to remain in the rigging for twenty hours or more, because the men of the Life-saving Service were not provided with proper apparatus to rescue them. In order to show what the press of that day had to say on the subject, I will quote from the *Spirit of the Age*, published at Port Rowan, dated 1st November, 1883. It reads as follows:—

"On Tuesday morning, about 8 o'clock, a large three-masted schooner was seen above this port going down the lake. From the erratic course of the boat it seemed that something was wrong with her. This obser-