

the reckless waste and destruction of their fisheries. In place of adopting a proper protective system for their own fisheries they allowed them to be destroyed ; and in any arrangement that may be entered into between Canada and the United States I fully endorse the views of my hon. friend from Halifax that the fishermen of the latter country should not be allowed any greater privileges in our waters than are conceded to our own fishermen. Fishermen of the United States must be subjected to the same rules and laws as our fishermen are subjected to. It would be suicidal ; it would be the utter annihilation of our fisheries, if the Americans were allowed to come in and practice a system of fishing which is not allowed to our own people. I cannot for a moment believe that anything of the kind would be entertained by our Government. My hon. friend from Halifax thinks it was unwise to allow United States fishermen to fish in our waters after the Treaty was terminated. I do not agree with him. I believe that we stand in a better position to-day both in the United States and in England in consequence of the conciliatory spirit and generous position we took on that occasion. When it was suggested by the President of the United States that by leaving our fisheries open for one year the matter might be left to arbitration or to a commission for settlement, had we declined to do so we would have shut off all negotiations, created a feeling of irritation in the United States, and we would not now receive the same cordial sympathy and support that we have and that we expect to receive from England in the final settlement of this question. My hon. friend from Halifax thinks that our fishing cruisers are acting too vigorously and too officiously, but the only example he could cite was the case of the "Scylla," a vessel from my own town, Lunenburg. I may inform the hon. gentleman that I think I am the largest shareholder in the "Scylla," and I believe that she was properly arrested and properly fined ; and I felt so strongly in the matter that I would not take any steps to have that fine removed it was so annoying to me to find a vessel in which I had a large interest, violating not only the spirit but

the letter of the Treaty in its most vital part. I say it was a gross violation of the rights of our fishermen on the part of the captain to give succor and protection and supplies to an American rival. The penalty was well imposed, and I was surprised to find that to some extent it had been rescinded. If that is the only case in which our cruisers can be charged with having acted harshly or inconsiderately, then I say they acted well. From my knowledge of the matter, I say that the Government were perfectly justified in the action they took, and a proper example was made in imposing a fine on the "Scylla."

My hon. friend refers to the paragraph which announces the formation of a new department. From what I have heard I believe that some of the departments will be amalgamated, but when my hon. friend says that a Department of Trade and Commerce is not required, he does not seem to realize what is essential to the welfare of the country. I feel that the Government are now, as they have always been, true to their principles and the National Policy in developing not only the industries of the country and the internal trade of the country, but extending our foreign trade relations. I am in hopes that we will have large trade relations with France, and the Spanish West Indies, with which latter country we are now on the same terms as the most favored nations, by which a large trade can be secured for Canada, and especially that part of it from which I come. This paragraph in the Speech assures me that the Government are alive to the necessities of our trade and the importance of building up and expanding our foreign trade relations. There has been no time in which it was more important than it is at present. Our export trade has not been as satisfactory as it should have been, not from want of capability of production, but from want of good markets, and I believe the proposed Bureau or Department will be a live one, and an incentive to foreign trade as well as our coast and internal trade. I look upon this paragraph in the Speech as above all others in practical importance.

As regards the North-West Territory, we ought to congratulate ourselves on