

taken possession of some of their vessels and brought them before the tribunals for the purpose of having them declared forfeited. These proceedings would have excited exceedingly bad feeling, and there would have been no possibility afterwards of obtaining a return to our old relations; but the course which we did take afforded us an opportunity for negotiations. We found perfectly friendly and good feeling on the part of those in power at Washington—even an active disposition to join us in trying to get our trade relations reconsidered by the only power that could effect anything—that is Congress. The President could not make a treaty with us about the fisheries: he could do nothing but what he said he would do and has since done, namely: recommend it to the favorable consideration of Congress. That was a valuable point to obtain, and it at all events brought the subject up in such a way as to give fair-minded men in the United States, who desire to have trade relations with us, an opportunity to discuss the subject; and it renders it possible and even probable that these trade relations will be resumed. We should have heard nothing of all that if we had taken the course the hon. gentleman suggests. It is now apparently only those who have ownership in vessels and are absolutely engaged in the fishing that desire to prevent the renewal of the treaty. The men who are more or less concerned in the fishing trade in Boston and elsewhere, and the general public along the border and up towards the west, are all interested, and have endeavored to make their feelings known with reference to the advantage to the United States of renewing these relations. Gentlemen have passed backward and forward between Washington and here who have been and are still taking a very active part in endeavoring to bring about a renewal of those relations. It seems to me to be a sensible way of dealing with the difficulty and of reviving the relations which have been so valuable to us. That is the course the Government have pursued, and I think it was the true policy to adopt and the policy most likely to prove successful. My hon. friend passes over some of the other paragraphs of the speech and tells us that he will be glad

to consider the various measures promised in the speech from the Throne. Some of those measures were brought before the House this last Session. Two of them particularly were introduced and adopted in this House; and, therefore, they are being introduced this year in the other branch of Parliament. I hope and believe that the result of the Session will be advantageous to the country, and that the legislation to be adopted will be such as to commend itself to the favourable consideration of this House. I desire, before I resume my seat, to say one word in support of the ordinary usages of Parliament. There are certain customs which are binding upon all reasonable men, and which gentlemen submit to as a matter of course, because they feel that in so doing they are only acting in conformity with the general feeling of those surrounding them. The usage of Parliament, is to allow the leader of the Opposition to follow the mover and seconder of the Address; and the interruption which took place on this occasion was, I think, unparliamentary and unusual, and not made, I am persuaded, for any other purpose than to allow the member who made it, at a moment when he thought he could make himself conspicuous, an opportunity to indulge his inordinate vanity and malevolence. The idea of the hon. gentleman criticising Sir John Macdonald and his policy, is too absurd to be worthy of a reply. He desires to thrust himself on the House at times when hon. gentlemen do not want to hear him. Nothing has struck me more, since I have had a seat in the Senate, than the patience of the House on such occasions, when hon. gentlemen know that the usages of parliament are being departed from, and yet permit the person who offends to finish what he has to say. I desire to express my opinion of the course which has been pursued by the hon. member who prevented the hon. leader of the Opposition from taking the course which propriety and usage prescribe.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—(in French)—The Hon. Postmaster-General has made allusion to a parliamentary usage which I understand perfectly well. I think, however, he has departed from a well-under-