

of the present extradition convention between this country and the United States. I know of grievous injustice and wrong having occurred owing to the complicated character of the existing provisions. I know of a case in which the interest of justice has been thwarted owing to the miscarriages due to the complicated character of the old provisions. After some thousands of dollars had been expended the proceedings were abortive, and though it was quite clear that the man ought to have been, in any sense but a technical sense, sent over the water, the demand for extradition was refused. The persons who made this demand were disgusted at their large expenditure, and gave the matter up. Other instances also occurred. It is a matter of very grave consequence that we should learn, at this late date, what prevented our Extradition Act from being put into operation. This is but one part of this motion. I hope this correspondence will be brought down early, in order that I may be put in a position, while yet private members have an opportunity of engaging the attention of the House, to make some further motion on this subject. The other point to which I refer is of equally, perhaps of greater, importance. I refer to the necessity of taking active measures for the enlargements of the range of extradition offences. That subject was discussed during my visit to England upon this topic—both the enlargement of the range and the more liberal application of the international law to this question. The difficulty that existed at that time, and which resulted in the temporary suspension of the Ashburton Treaty, was due to the controversy between Lord Derby and Mr. Fish as to the course that each country was entitled to take on the subject of extradition. That difficulty was ultimately resolved by the retirement of the Imperial Government from the position it had assumed; and the Royal Commission, composed of numerous eminent persons on both sides of politics, presented a report entirely abandoning the old exclusive and illiberal doctrines on this subject, and propounding doctrines more satisfactory to modern notions and the exigencies of the present state of the case. This report renders it impossible that the cases which were formerly suggested of the right of asylum, &c., and which had really no sound foundation, and the difficulties suggested as to the range of offences, which have equally, to the present day, no solid foundation, should form any obstacle. I maintain it is a special interest and duty not merely to procure an efficacious mode of working existing arrangements, but to press for further treaty arrangements extending the range of existing offences. If that fail, we should do what was suggested long ago to this House, on the occasion of the visit to which I have referred, and what has actually taken place in the early history of the old Province of Upper Canada and several other dependencies of the Crown, we should proceed legislatively, in order that, if we are unable to obtain from other countries the rascals that fly from us to them, we may be able to relieve ourselves of the rascals who fly from other countries to us.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. With reference to the first remark of the hon. leader of the Opposition, the correspondence, of course, that has taken place—I do not know that any has taken place—will be laid on the Table. Judging from the remark made by the hon. leader of the Government, on Friday last, he is in accord with the hon. leader of the Opposition as to the propriety of extending our treaty arrangements, and there will be very little difference of opinion on both sides of the House when that subject is dealt with.

Motion agreed to.

MILITARY DEFENCE OF CANADA.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for the correspondence between the Imperial and Canadian Governments, or any member or Mr. BLAKE.

officers thereto, relating to the defence of Canada, said: It has been stated that, prior to the occurrence to which I am about to refer, a correspondence took place of considerable interest and importance with relation to the military defence of Canada, which has never been brought down, and that views of great interest to the people of Canada were communicated to its Government. I think it is about time we should be aware of what those views are. Later on, a memorandum in which the First Minister, and the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Railways joined, as expository of their view that the diplomatic office of a representative of Canada, should be opened at the Court of St. James, declared that at this moment certain subjects were under consideration, including the military defence of Canada generally, and of British Columbia more especially. That was some time in the year 1879. It is obvious, therefore, that the subject of the military defence of Canada, generally, and of British Columbia more especially, has been under consideration, at any rate, from the time I refer to, 1879; and, if my information is correct, it has been under consideration for a period considerably anterior. I think it would be of interest for us to know what the nature of the discussion has been, what the information is, and what are the statements to be made with regard to this very important subject.

Mr. CARON. This correspondence is of a most voluminous character, extending over a period of time previous to Confederation, and it will require some time to bring down all the papers. Of course, the whole of the correspondence, with the exception of what is private and confidential, will be submitted to the House.

Mr. BLAKE. I am afraid that the hon. gentleman's statement means that no portions of that correspondence will be brought down, except such as will be of little or no interest.

Mr. CARON. When it comes down the hon. gentleman can judge for himself.

Motion agreed to.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for copies of all correspondence and reports relating to the improvement of the commercial relations between Canada and any other country, including the correspondence on the subject of the communication of the French Consul at Quebec to a member of the Government, said: It will be recollected that we have already had a certain amount of correspondence from the High Commissioner, which was brought down, I think, last Session, stating the results of his negotiations so far. I presume there has been some continuance of the correspondence on that subject, and that we have at any rate some letters to show for that appointment. Besides that, I have already alluded particularly to the subject of a correspondence which is of some public interest, and which was noticed in the papers of the country, and also in English newspapers, and which has occasioned a little discussion in the British House of Commons. It seems a report got abroad that a gentleman who at that time was, or who a short time previously had been, French Consul at Quebec, addressed a communication to the Minister of Public Works, or in some way intimated to him that the French Government was cordially disposed to us in this connection, and that the Minister of Public Works was disloyal enough to receive that communication, and actually to impart it to somebody or other, I do not know whom. It seems this gave rise to some political excitement in the English House of Commons, and that the British Government was interrogated on the subject; that they communicated with the Canadian First Minister; that he