

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** said he would endeavour to have it submitted to the House without delay.

**Hon. Sir A.T. GALT** having moved for the correspondence between the Dominion and Imperial Governments since February, 1870, on the subject of the fisheries and of the proposed Imperial and United States' Joint Commission. He questioned the Premier in regard to the character of the papers.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** said a good many papers were omitted because marked by the Imperial authorities "confidential." The Government had applied for permission, by cable, to submit all the papers.

**Hon. Sir A.T. GALT:** Is the Order in Council of 1866 brought down?

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** Yes.

**Mr. DUFRESNE** asked if the action of the International Commission would be confined to the fisheries, or would it embrace other questions, such as the indemnity for the Fenian raid.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** gave an account of the organization of the Commission. The original idea was the settlement of the fishery question. Afterwards in acquiescence with the proposal of the United States the *Alabama* matter was included. Then the Canadian government urged the inclusion of the claims arising out of the Fenian raid. The correspondence on this subject was still proceeding. He had not seen the *ipsissima verba* of the commission, and could not tell how much it would undertake. All he knew was that a despatch had been received from England conceding the Canadian demands, and giving Canada representation on the commission.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON:** Was the Canadian government consulted as to the enlargement of the commission's functions?

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** No. The American government asked to have them enlarged and the British government agreed to it.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** asked if the Canadian claims arising out of the Fenian raid were to be submitted.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** could not answer that positively. He said they had a claim and asked the Imperial Government to make it on their behalf. The first proposal for the widening of the sphere of the Commission came from the United States, as it could not well have come from the Imperial Government. They wisely consented, however, and so with mutual agreement all questions between the Governments were to be considered.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** said the letter of Secretary Fish proposing the enlargement was limited almost entirely to questions arising from the war. He (Mr. Mackenzie) did not see there was any room for the Hon. Premier's expectation that the United States Government would listen to the Canadian claims as to the raid.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** said surely it must be seen it was not probable Mr. Fish would propose the entertainment of those demands.

**Mr. MACKENZIE:** Of course not.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS:** Therefore he simply proposed what he wanted. But Sir Edward Thornton's letter covered not only the Fishery question, but all questions in dispute between the United States and the British Empire. Its words were quite wide enough for that inference.

**Hon. Mr. ANGLIN:** No, no.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS:** Yes; the words are comprehensive enough to cover all the questions.

**Hon. Mr. HOLTON** said they had no evidence the claims had ever been urged on the United States Government.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** The question was first as to the Fisheries. I confined my statement to that.

**Hon. Sir A.T. GALT** confessed that, in his opinion, the correspondence between Mr. Fish and the Imperial Government did not cover the Canadian claim. The first letter of the British Minister at Washington, however, contained general terms which led to the conclusion the Commission might cover everything, including the Fenian claims and the headlands question. But a correspondence must be taken as of the two parties, and the most important letter that passed between the two parties was that of Mr. Fish, which, as he read it, related solely to the claims arising out of the late war. However, he quite understood the Premier's inability to state positively whether the Canadian claims would or would not be considered by the Commission. But he hoped the leader of the Government would take such steps as were necessary to ascertain whether they would or not.

**Mr. MACKENZIE** said that if it had been the intention of the Dominion Government to have them so considered, they could tell us whether Mr. Campbell was instructed to make representations on the Fenian raid to the Imperial Government.

**Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER** said they had urged on the British Government not only the claims of Canada, but those of private individuals, in connection with the consideration of the *Alabama* claims. They received an official answer that their wishes would receive attention. A large expenditure was incurred by the threats of the raid and the raid itself. The Canadian Government urged its title to an indemnity for that raid. Mr. Campbell had pressed that claim.