

lic interests. I guarded myself carefully on that point. The hon. gentleman can see any of the papers he desires; but I think it would be absurd to place an incomplete correspondence before the House.

Mr. MASSON—It can be retained for a century if that course be pursued. The question of title that is at issue can only be decided between the Imperial and Federal Governments, but I did not ask for correspondence that had passed between these Administrations. There can be no secret to be concealed, and I hope that when the correspondence is brought down it will be printed.

#### CONCURRENCE.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT moved concurrence in the reports of Committee of Supply, and the first item respecting fisheries being taken up,

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL remarked that he had the day previous called the attention of the Government and more particularly of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to the state of the case, with relation to the fishermen of New Brunswick. He had made a proposition which his hon. friend had kindly consented to consider, and he would like to hear what his hon. friend had to say on the subject.

Hon. Mr. SMITH replied that the matter had been under consideration. He had also consulted with the Minister of Justice, who had no objection to the acceptance of the proposition in question. It was to be understood, however, that convenient despatch would be made in this connection with regard to the submittal of the case.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL believed that it was in the interest of the Government and of the fishermen that a case should not be chosen until he had had an opportunity for visiting his constituents, and making personally an explanation to them of the difficulties of the position which both they and the Government occupied. He thought that if this was done, and if the view entertained by the Government on the one hand were contrasted with their claims, this would lead to a proposition that would bring about a more easy reconciliation of present differences than

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would be otherwise possible. He did not think that he could pay a visit to his county for this purpose until some time during the present summer, but he would endeavour to do so as soon as possible, and secure the nomination of some person authorized to act for the fishermen, to prepare a case for submission to the Minister of Justice, and his hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, for their assent, concurrence, amendment or suggestions, prior to being laid before the Judges of the Supreme Court. He fancied that this would be satisfactory to his hon. friend.

Hon. Mr. SMITH had certainly understood that the hon. gentleman spoke on behalf of the fishermen, and that the latter would undoubtedly assent to the terms of the proposition.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL replied that on the day previous he had stated that he had visited his county last year; that by request he had attended public meetings in four leading fishing districts; that he had been asked to give his advice and counsel, and that he had complied; that he had no positive authority to make a distinct proposition, and also that he had no doubt whatever that the proposal he had made, being as it was in the public interest, and in the interest of peace and order, right and justice, would be accepted by the fishermen when matters were explained. He had never pretended that he was authorized to make any proposition; but he did feel confident, from what had occurred between the fishermen and himself, that any proposal he might make would be accepted by his constituents. He requested his hon. friend not to be too hasty, but to afford him opportunity for going down and placing the facts before the fishermen. Under these circumstances he entertained no doubt whatever as to the acceptance of the proposition in question.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE—I understand that this is a question of law. The fishermen have some rights, the hon. gentleman asserts, and this is to lead to a final termination of the question.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—I did not assert it—the fishermen assert it.