

would neglect any interest of her own or Canada's, any insult to her dignity as a nation, on the ground that she would thereby sacrifice any market which the United States might give her. We, ourselves, I think, have been pretty good customers of hers, and might also have a counterbalancing influence in that particular direction; but I do not think my hon. friend's own illustration of his argument was sufficient to justify the assertion that England had any such motive in allowing this controversy to be protracted. The only reason that England had for allowing the delay was, that she could not bring the dispute to an earlier conclusion without assuming towards our friends on the other side of the border a position which my hon. friend from Ottawa would be the very first to deprecate and condemn. If with a little patience, if with the loss of some time—a good deal of time, I am quite prepared to admit,—England can succeed in bringing about a peaceable and friendly solution of this question, surely the loss of a year or two in the operations of these fishermen on the Pacific coast is nothing to be compared to the misery, the loss and the destruction that would follow any breach between England and the United States. And who would suffer most by such a breach—who but we, that are complaining because we have lost the cargoes of a few small fishing schooners, which after all do not amount to a great deal, and which I am confident will be compensated to the owners at the conclusion of this controversy. What comparison would that bear to the misery, the wretchedness and ruin which would follow a direct breach between England and the United States? I think that my hon. friends who find fault with this delay would do well to exercise some little patience, and entertain some little confidence in the desire and in the ability of England to maintain her own dignity and her own position (for it is her dignity and her position that are just as much assailed as ours), and trust, as I believe they may safely trust, that we shall shortly have, probably, as His Excellency informs us, within the present Session, a solution of the difficulty which will be satisfactory to everyone.

The other subjects which have been discussed will probably not require that I should detain the House so long as I have done on this subject of the seal fisheries in

Behring's Sea, because that is certainly a subject which interests us very largely, which in itself possesses intrinsic importance and demands the attention of the Senate, and of any other deliberative body that may be in session. With reference to the other subjects which were brought up by my hon. friend—the question of the fishing industry—it has been ascertained, and it is the fact, that better methods of curing fish, better methods of preparing the packages in which the fish are placed for market, have lately come into use both in Scotland and in Holland—in Holland more especially, where those methods have been better and more successful in capturing the attention and favor of customers than has been the case in Scotland. I am unable to inform the House, and probably it would not greatly interest hon. gentlemen to know, exactly in what particulars these improvements have been made. There is something in the construction of the packages, the mode in which the fish are pickled before they are placed in the barrels and packed in the barrel, the mode in which the packing is finished off—I do not know exactly what it is, but those are the points in which the fishermen, more especially of Holland, have succeeded in placing their goods in a better and more marketable condition than those of our own fishermen. The Government have sent over a commission composed of two men, who are certainly as experienced as could be found in the Dominion, practical fishermen, to investigate those processes and give us the necessary information which will enable us to successfully compete with the fishermen of Scotland and Holland, more especially the latter; and I trust that we shall shortly have their report before us, and judge for ourselves of its merits and the advantages which we may hope to derive from it.

There is another subject, and a very wide one, which I think cannot be successfully debated on this occasion; perhaps we may have a substantive opportunity of debating it during the Session. It has reference to that question which is familiar to this House, and which my hon. friend from Ottawa never fails to remind us of—and he is quite right, because it is an important one—the development and settlement of the North-West. One of my hon. friends opposite quoted the prophecy of Sir John Macdonald in another place as to