

were to be found in the Northern. At any rate, the treaty was repealed, and the United States Government refused to renew it; and when Mr. George Brown and Mr. Justice Henry, who I am sorry is so low to-night—

Mr. Ferguson (Leeds.)—Better.

Mr. Mitchell—I am glad to hear it, for the country can ill spare a man like him, who has taken such a prominent part in this country, both in his political and judicial capacity. When he was sent from Nova Scotia and Sir Albert Smith from New Brunswick and the gentlemen from Canada went to Washington and failed to obtain a renewal of the Treaty in 1866, it was a matter of great regret in all the Provinces. Those who remember the history of Canada will remember the position the country was in at that time. Old Canada was so torn with political dissensions that there was scarcely a Government that could last a week with any degree of certainty. We found one of the old Provinces struggling against another, and it was then that the idea struck the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government and a number of hon. gentlemen connected with him, to form a confederation of British America. Sir, we did form it, and I am proud to say that I took some part in its formation. As the Premier of my own Province, after one defeat I was successful in bringing the Province into line and inducing it to enter the Confederation. When I came here and took the position of Minister of Marine and Fisheries, what did I find? I found that those gentlemen, in 1866, the year before we came here, had protested against the efforts of the British Government to induce us to allow the Americans to come in and occupy our fisheries for a year. I will say for the Government of that day that they wrote a most pungent despatch, in which, although requested by the British Government, they refused to allow the Americans to come in and occupy our fisheries as they had done under the treaty. They communicated with the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and those Governments, out of deference to the wishes expressed by the British Ministers, consented, as did the Government of Canada, to an arrangement for allowing the Americans to come in on paying a tax of half a dollar a ton, but for only one year. That arrangement was agreed to in response to a despatch of Sir Edward Cardwell, then Colonial Minister. That despatch can be found in a return brought down in re-

sponse to a motion made by Mr. Blake in 1872. Sir Edward Cardwell urged the Government of the Provinces to permit the Americans to occupy the fisheries on the same terms as they did before the repeal of the treaty, stating that if they would consent to that, before the year was out some new arrangement would be made. We did it, the several Provinces did it, and before the term came around again in 1867, we had formed Confederation, and the duty was imposed upon me of creating the Department of Marine and Fisheries. I did create that department, and I think that I can appeal with satisfaction to the House and to the people generally to say whether, during my record of seven and a half years, I did not perform my duty faithfully and effectively. When, Sir, in 1867, we were appealed to again to renew the arrangement, I was called upon to enquire into and make a report on the matter, and I did make a report which is contained in the public records of this Parliament. In that report, while I disapproved of the policy, at the urgent request of Her Majesty's Government, I recommended an increase of duty and consented to a continuance of the arrangement, but only for one year more. That year passed away. The number of vessels which took out licenses the first year was considerably larger than the second, and when we were applied to the third year, to allow the Americans to fish on the same terms, we resented the application. We increased the duty, but consented only to put it on for one year more. Before that year was finished, I found that the British Government had again weakened, and when I studied up the history of the question for the previous sixty or seventy years, I found that while the British Government had strictly enforced the headland question and the exclusion of Americans from the bays, and protected our inshore fisheries, about which there was never a dispute, for nearly forty years after the Treaty of 1818 was made, yet, when in 1854 the Elgin Treaty was made, our exclusive rights over these fisheries were suspended during its existence, for twelve years, and the Americans were permitted to go in and participate in the fisheries under the treaty while it lasted. But when that treaty expired, in 1886, England resumed the protection of the fisheries of Canada, and stated the existence of our claims as being revived as they existed in 1854, and led Canada to believe that she would enforce the treaty of 1818, as she had done up to