

decidedly better position now; for I repeat my opinions that war would not have ensued from the Fishery question. If any disposition had been shown by the United States to precipitate war on this country in case we rejected this part of the Treaty, I would believe there is a necessity for our accepting the measure; but nothing of the kind has been manifested. We do not see in all the correspondence on this subject between Great Britain and the United States that the position of Canada has been adverted to in the least degree. There must be an instinct of patriotism in the breast of every Canadian which must make us feel that our rights have been sacrificed. I do not say it is at present desirable, but I believe there must come a time when we must stand by ourselves. If we look at the press of the mother country we see that there is a feeling that we are a source of difficulty to the mother country, in fact a source of weakness. Might not the time then come when the Empire will endeavor to get rid of the weakness? If we are such a source of difficulty I do not see why we should not take steps which would prevent the Empire from suffering loss. I do not say it is desirable to become independent, but it is in the future; for we cannot remain as we are but we must become a nation in the course of time. The days of our youth have passed, and when we consider the vast extent of our territory, the growth of our population, the prospects of Immigration in the future, the incalculable value of our resources, we must see that the time must come sooner or later when we shall be called upon to assume a higher position among the communities of the world. I do not say the time for this has yet arrived, but we can see evidence pointing in this direction. Suppose now, to return to the Treaty, we wished to enter into larger commercial relations with the United States, what would we have to offer them as an inducement? We would not have the Fisheries, for they would be granted in such a way that even when it comes to an end we will have little or nothing to say as to its renewal. This is our last chance of dealing with the question; henceforth it will be in the hands of Great Britain. If it is not her interest to renew the Treaty we will be deprived of the advantages we formerly possessed; and then difficulties and discontent must arise and perhaps bring about the very result to which I have been referring. It has been said that a certain portion of the Dominion must derive a great benefit from the passage of the Treaty, but we know the

indignation with which the news of its provisions was received at Fredericton, and the unanimous vote which was passed declaratory of the opinion that the measure was a bartering away of Colonial rights for the sake of certain Imperial interests without Canada receiving a sufficient equivalent. As respects Nova Scotia I admit that there is a certain class in favor of the Treaty because it gives them a free market for their fish; but the interests of the other Provinces are ignored. As time passes and the country more clearly sees the value of the rights that have been sacrificed, Parliament itself will be forced to declare that the Treaty is no benefit to the Dominion. I do not intend to ask the House to divide on the question, but I am nevertheless compelled by a sense of public duty to express my disapproval of a measure which hands over our most valuable territorial rights at the dictation of a foreign power because England wishes to settle her Alabama difficulties. In connection with this question let me give a short citation from a book, which has a bearing on treaties like, the one now under consideration. "In 1773 by the Treaty of Recognition of the United States, Great Britain did abandon the State of Illinois and other valuable territories which had been ceded by France to Great Britain in 1763. In 1818 the fisheries on the unsettled shores of Newfoundland and Labrador were abandoned gratuitously as well as our rights to a boundary line the Mississippi. In 1842 by the Ashburton Treaty, which was styled by the public men in England, a capitulation Great Britain gave up the Maine territory then a possession of New Brunswick and of Lower Canada; in 1846, by the Oregon Treaty the Columbia river and the Oregon territory were surrendered to the States, and in 1872 we surrender the Island of San Juan, the Fisheries, the Navigation of the St. Lawrence, and endanger the exclusive rights to our canals, and all that for the sake of peace. Are not all these treaties leading to the total sacrifice of the Canadian Territory, piece by piece, and are they not tending to diminish and cripple our natural resources and creating a feeling of uneasiness, inspiring ideas of the necessity of a change in the relations of the Dominion with the Mother Country." With respect to the navigation of the St. Lawrence it is urged that the river is not navigable, and the Americans must make use of our canals. I believe the Treaty in spirit gives the Americans the right to use the canals just as they can use the river. I have little doubt that if they think it