

passing resolutions and bills counter to one another in order to restrict the prosecution of that industry rather than to make the most of it and to do the very best that we possibly can. Now, hon. gentlemen, I will read you clause 13 of the bonding bill that has been lately passed by the United States Senate. The bill was introduced because of the complaints that were made by United States miners that we forced them to go and get their free miners' licenses at inconvenient points—forced them to go to Victoria, Vancouver or Dawson City, in order to force people to come and trade at these ports. To offset that the United States Senate take up the question and passed a bill which contains this clause :

That under rule and regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, the privilege of entering goods in warehouses and merchandise in bond or of placing them in bonded warehouses at the port of Wrangel, district of Alaska, and of withdrawing the same for exportation to any place in British Columbia or the North-west Territory without payment of duty is hereby granted to the government of the Dominion of Canada and its citizens, or citizens of the United States, whenever and so long as it shall appear to the satisfaction of the President of the United States, who shall ascertain and declare the fact by proclamation, that no exclusive privilege of transporting through British Columbia or the North-west Territory goods or passengers arriving from or destined for other ports in Alaska is granted to any persons or corporations by the government of the Dominion of Canada, and that the privilege has been duly accorded to responsible persons or corporations operating transportation lines in British Columbia or the North-west Territory of making direct connection with transportation lines in Alaska, and that the government of the Dominion has consented to, and is allowing on behalf of the citizens of the United States, the entry free of duty of all miners' outfits and a supply of provisions and clothing, the whole not exceeding in quantity 2,500 pounds for each citizen of the United States proposing to engage in mining in British Columbia, or the North-west Territory; and that the government of the Dominion of Canada has removed all unequal restrictions as to the issue of miners' licenses to all citizens of the United States operating or intending to operate in British Columbia or the North-west Territory. And further, that fishing vessels of the United States, having authority under the laws of the United States to touch and trade at any port or ports, place or places in the British dominions of North America, shall have the privilege of entering such port or ports, place or places for the purpose of purchasing bait and all other supplies and outfits in the same manner and under the same regulations as may exist therein applicable to trading vessels of the most-favoured nations and of transshipping their catch to be transported in bond through said Dominions without payment of duty in the same manner as other merchandise destined for the United States may be thus transported.

The debate on this section of the bill was quite spirited, and brought into the controversy the old fisheries question on the New England coast, which has been pending between the United States and Great Britain for 100 years. The statement was made on the floor of the Senate that there was every reason

to believe that by the passage of the bill the fisheries question could be settled without great effort, as assurances to that effect had been received from a large and influential element in Canada.

Now, that is the bill which has been passed by the Senate of the United States, it reads on the face of it what its intention is—to force the Canadian government to place the free miners' licenses at the disposal of United States citizens at points convenient to them and not according to our own regulations. It further imposes upon the Canadian government the obligation of admitting a ton and a quarter of mining supplies free of any duties we may see fit to impose. It also claims equal fishing rights in Canadian territory. That legislation is on a par with the legislation which has conferred the advantage of \$2 a thousand on lumber manufactured from Canadian logs in the United States over lumber manufactured in Canada, and legislation which gives United States fishermen an advantage in our waters over Canadian fishermen, and so on. As an offset to that resolution of the Senate I would call the attention of the honourable House to the mining regulations of the United States :

United States mining laws and regulations thereunder, relative to the reservation, exploration, location, possession, purchasing and patenting of the mineral lands in the public domain.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

MINERAL LANDS OPEN TO EXPLORATION, OCCUPATION AND PURCHASE.

Sec. 2318, R.S.—In all cases lands valuable for minerals shall be reserved from sale, except as otherwise expressly directed by law.

Sec. 2319.—All valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States, both surveyed and unsurveyed, are hereby declared to be free and open to exploration and purchase, and the lands in which they are found to occupation and purchase, by citizens of the United States, and those who have declared their intention to become such, under regulations prescribed by law, and according to the local customs or rules of miners in the several mining districts, so far as the same are applicable, and not inconsistent with the laws of the United States.

4th July, 1866.

10th May, 1872.

Now, hon. gentlemen will see the condition under which the mining licenses are granted in the territories of Alaska, only United States citizens or those who have taken the first steps to become United States citizens shall be allowed to mine in that country at all. You see, hon. gentlemen, what a disadvantage that places Canadian miners at. The United States citizens, under the present law, are allowed