

was granted to enable him to send the papers to England. That also was granted at the instance of his counsel. The third reprieve was granted because it was desired by many persons that there should be a medical examination of the prisoner before the execution; so that all the reprieves were granted, not at the instance of the Crown, but at the request of the prisoner's counsel.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—I regret having alluded to the question at all, but it always has occupied a prominent position in my mind that in addition to undergoing the sentence of death he underwent all the anticipatory horrors of it. We know in holy writ that that has been pointed out to us, the bitterness of death—that man underwent it three times over.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—It is very regrettable, but if we had refused it, what would have been the case then?

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—I expressed my regret that I was led to allude to the subject at all under the circumstances, not because its effect is in any way weakened in my mind, but because I do not feel myself in a position to go fully into the question and discuss the point as to how far the Government of the day were in a position to come to a proper decision upon Riel's case.

I was speaking of the Canadian Pacific Railway and saying that I thought it was a subject for congratulation that it runs its whole course through our own territory; that we are not likely to incur any future danger by inability to transmit military stores or anything of that kind. That I think is a subject of very great importance. I felt, myself, though I could not always concur in the modes adopted by the Government in granting contracts and finding funds for that great work, that still it was a thing which every Canadian, particularly men advanced in life like myself, would be glad to live to see completed; and I do think it is a matter of congratulation for us all, young and old—that the young will have before them during the coming years the means of easy and rapid transport across the continent, and the old that they have seen what was regarded almost as a dream become a reality.

I must say a few words, at the risk of wearying the House, about this Fisheries question. I do so because it intimately concerns the prosperity of many of my constituents and many of my immediate neighbors. I do so because the last two winters just previous to the opening of Parliament I had been called on to attend meetings of the fishermen and farmers in my neighborhood and to obtain their sentiments on these points. I recollect not many weeks ago I was at such a meeting. On this occasion the discussion did not refer to a renewal of the treaty with the United States, because it was understood at that time that good hopes prevailed that the negotiations would lead to a desirable result; but on the previous year that point was fully discussed, and the men present there, fishermen and farmers, and others, expressed the opinion very clearly that they would prefer a renewal of the old reciprocity treaty to any other arrangement that could be made; but if that could not be obtained they would prefer a renewal of the arrangement abrogated last year, which gave rise to the concessions made by the Government of the day to the Americans. Then followed the question—What alternative do you suggest in case neither can be obtained? In that case they said “There is no alternative except to exclude the Americans of the United States outside of the Three Miles limit. There were present on that occasion some warm supporters of the Government, one gentleman particularly, who had just been returned for the county in the Government interest. I rose to my feet on this being stated, and pointed out to those present that at this time—and it is still the case—a most friendly state of feeling exists between the United States and the British Empire; and that it was most important that this desirable feeling should not be disturbed if possible by any action of ours. This renders, of course, the treatment of the Fisheries question the more difficult, because we know, however valuable and important our fisheries are, it is still more important that a good understanding should be maintained between Great Britain, Canada and the United States. We are able, I believe, to appreciate the very difficult position that the Government occupy to-day; still I cannot acquit them of want of timely attention to

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL.