

explaining the reasons why the United States Government is anxious to denounce the fishery clauses.

"They are briefly that, in their opinion, the fisheries are not worthy the sum awarded by the Halifax Commission, and that, as the term of years for which compensation was awarded expires next year, the United States would, were no steps taken to free themselves from this obligation, be liable to be again called upon to pay largely for privileges which they do not consider worth keeping.

I have, &c.,

"The Earl GRANVILLE, K.G.

DUDLEY E. SAURIN."

On the 3rd of May following, Lord Derby addressed a letter to the Marquis of Lorne, in these words:

"DOWNING STREET, 3rd May, 1883.

"MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, enclosing a note from the United States Minister at this Court, informing Her Majesty's Government that a formal notice will be given, on the part of the United States Government, on the 2nd of July next, for the termination, after two years from that date, of articles 18 to 25, inclusive, and article 30 of the Treaty of Washington, of the 8th of May, 1873.

"Although the articles in question will remain in force for two years after the notice is given, your Government will, no doubt, agree with me in the opinion that it is desirable that no time should be lost in taking into consideration the course which it will be best to adopt in regard to the fisheries question, on the termination of the articles of the Treaty relating thereto.

"Her Majesty's Government will be glad if your Ministers will favor them with their views in the matter, as soon as they may be in a position to do so.

"I have, etc.,

"DERBY.

"Governor General, the Right Hon.

"The Marquis of LORNE, K.T., G.C.M.G."

In that was enclosed a letter from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office, dated the 25th of April, 1883:

"FOREIGN OFFICE, 25th April, 1883.

"SIR,—I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you a copy of a note from the United States Minister at this Court, to the effect that he has been instructed by his Government to give notice, on the 2nd July (the 1st falling on a Sunday), of the termination of articles 18 to 25 inclusive, and article 30, of the Treaty of Washington, of the 8th May, 1871.

"I am to request that in laying this paper before the Earl of Derby you will state that although, after notice is given, two years must still elapse before these articles cease to have effect; it appears to Lord Granville expedient to take into consideration, without delay, what course it will be best to adopt, with a view, if possible, to avoid a recurrence of irritating disputes in connection with the fisheries question, and I am to suggest that in the first place it might be well to communicate a copy of Mr. Lowell's note to the Canadian Government, and to ascertain what views they entertain upon the subject.

"I am, &c.,

"PHILIP W. CURRIE."

"The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

You will observe that not only Lord Derby, the Colonial Minister, but also Earl Granville, the Foreign Secretary, expressed the opinion in clear and emphatic language that no time should be lost in considering what measures should be taken, in view of the termination of these articles, and that the views of the Canadian Government on the subject should be obtained. Yet, notwithstanding the explicit terms in which the views of the Imperial Government were thus expressed, so far as we can ascertain from the papers which have been brought down, the Canadian Government were silent on the matter; no notice was taken of these papers; nothing appears to have been done on behalf of our Government. Parliament met here in the following January. In the debate on the address, my hon. friend the member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) called the attention of the Government to the matter in the following words:

"There is an omission or two in the Speech to which I must refer. The Fishery Exhibition is mentioned, and the hon. gentlemen who have moved and seconded the reply have spoken with great and lively admiration of the success of that exhibition and of the triumphs which Canada there achieved. But we have some fishery interests which are to be promoted in other ways than by attending exhibitions; there are some fishing clauses in a treaty, which clauses have been denounced, and which are to come to an end at no remote period; and I think some reference to that circumstance and to an intention to take the House into the confidence of the Government as to the course proposed by

them, and to indicate what the Government have done in view of the approaching termination of the fishery clauses of the Washington Treaty, would have been at least of as much consequence as the paragraph which has been inserted in the Speech. It is very well known that within the last two or three years more particularly the chief market for our fish has been the United States, and it has become of very pressing importance that we should know what the results are to be of the termination of these fishery clauses. It is of importance that the treaty should not terminate without an earnest effort in advance to make proper arrangements, so that there shall be no gap, if it can be avoided; and I will add that it is of great consequence also, and the times appear to be more propitious now than in former days, that in those negotiations due attention shall be paid to arriving at some mode of restoring freer trade relations between us and our neighbors than have for some time subsisted."

On that occasion the only reply my hon. friend received from the right hon. Prime Minister was an attack on the members here for having opposed that treaty in 1871, and for having called him a Judas Iscariot for securing such a treaty. Shortly afterwards, when attention was called to the matter, we find that on the 30th of January, 1884, Lord Derby wrote again to the Marquis of Lansdowne:

"MY LORD,—With reference to my despatches of the 3rd of May and of the 28th December last, I have the honor to request that you will move your Government to take an early opportunity of placing me in possession of their views as to the course to be pursued in consequence of the approaching termination of the fishery articles of the Treaty of Washington.

"In connection with this subject, you will no doubt have observed the suggestion contained in an early part of the Message of the President of the United States, communicated to the two Houses of Congress on the 4th of December last."

Before stating whether any notice was taken of this despatch or not, I would refer to that portion of the President's message relating to the fisheries. President Arthur, in his message to Congress on the 5th of December, 1883, used the following language:—

"Notice of the termination of the fisheries articles of the Treaty of Washington was duly given to the British Government and the reciprocal privileges and exemptions of the treaty will accordingly cease on July 1st, 1885. The fisheries industries pursued by a numerous class of our citizens on the northern coasts of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, are worthy of the fostering care of Congress whenever brought into competition with the like industries of other countries, our fishermen, as well as our manufacturers of fishing appliances and preparers of fish products, have maintained a foremost place. I suggest that Congress create a commission to consider the general question of our rights in the fisheries and the means of opening to our citizens under just and enduring conditions, the richly stocked fishing waters and sealing grounds of British North America."

Showing that if the American Government had been approached to use their influence to obtain a renewal of the treaty, they would no doubt have been willing to use that influence. That was referred to in the despatch of the 30th of January, 1884, with the request that the views of this Government should be presented at as early a date as possible to the Imperial Government. That Government had in the previous year pointed out that it was important that no time should be lost in endeavoring to make some arrangements, but while perfectly ready and willing to enter into negotiations, they were desirous of consulting the Dominion Government and obtaining their views with regard to extending the treaty or making other arrangements which might be mutually satisfactory and beneficial to both countries. On the 28th of March following, my hon. friend the member for Queen's, P. E. I. (Mr. Davies), who I regret is not here to aid me in putting this matter before the House, moved a resolution calling the attention of the House to the subject. My hon. friend, in his speech on that occasion, showed clearly the advantages that would accrue to this country, especially to the Maritime Provinces, by a continuation of this treaty, and urged that some effort should be made for the purpose of getting an arrangement if possible with the United States. At that time the despatches were referred to, but had not been laid on the Table. My hon. friend on that occasion moved:

"In view of the notice of the termination of the fisheries articles of the Treaty of Washington, given by the United States to the British Government, and the consequent expiration, on the 1st July, 1885, of