

mercial purposes, and the immediate result is already a quarrel between the two countries as to whether or not a prisoner can be conveyed down the Stikkeen River. We are bound by one of the clauses of that treaty to give the United States the free use of all the canals of the Dominion, and they are bound only to use their influence with the individual States to secure for us the navigation of the canals of the States contiguous to us, traversing the boundaries of the two countries. So they placed us actually in a position of inferiority in this respect from which no negotiation can possibly deliver us; and the successors of the hon. gentleman's Government have been obliged to take a stand upon other grounds in vindication of the rights of this country to certain privileges in connection with the navigation of these waters."

The hon. gentleman was entirely mistaken with regard to the common use or free navigation of the St. Lawrence. So long ago as 1826, a most elaborate discussion of the subject took place, and the Imperial Government then offered it to the United States as a concession; but the offer was refused, the United States demanding it as a right, and stating that, unless they so obtained it, they would not accept it at all. And this was the reason and the only reason why the free navigation of the St. Lawrence was not parted with so long ago as 1826. Whether the Treaty with Russia gave us these rivers or not, on the face of this Treaty appeared the fact that the United States abandoned the position they maintained in 1826, and accepted it as a concession from the Government of Great Britain. Every person understood that the common use or right of navigating the magnificent St. Lawrence was a mere phrase without any meaning in it whatever, as the navigation of the St. Lawrence did not amount to anything apart from the navigation of the canals. He would read a clause in the Treaty to show the hon. gentleman that, by an Order in Council to-morrow, notwithstanding the Treaty, he could close every canal in Canada against United States bottoms whilst leaving them open for the free use of Canadian subjects; therefore the hon. gentleman was under a complete misapprehension when he supposed that legislative and administrative action regarding these canals had been taken out of the hands of the Government by this Treaty. The 27th Article of the Treaty was as follows:—

"The Government of Her Britannic Majesty engages to urge upon the Government of the Dominion of Canada to secure to the citizens of the United States the use of the Welland, St. Lawrence and other canals in the Dominion on terms of equality with the inhabitants of the Dominion; and the Government of the United States engages that the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty shall enjoy the use of the St. Clair Flats' Canal on terms of equality with the inhabitants of the United States; and, further, engages to urge upon the State Governments to secure to the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty the use of the several canals connected with the navigation of the lakes or rivers traversed by, or contiguous to, the boundary-line between the possessions of the high contracting parties, on terms of equality with the inhabitants of the United States."

Then this was further provided:

"The Government of the United States may suspend the right of carrying granted in favour of the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty under this article, in case the Dominion of Canada should, at any time, deprive the citizens of the United States of the use of the canals in the said Dominion on terms of equality with the inhabitants of the Dominion, as provided in Article XXVII."

So, in the first place, all that the Imperial Government bound itself to do was to use its influence with the Government of Canada to obtain the use of these canals for the people of the United States, in precisely the same manner as the American Government bound itself to use its influence with the States' Governments, in order to secure to the people of Canada the use of State Canals; and the proviso followed that, if certain concessions with reference to the carrying trade were withdrawn, other concessions made by the United States could be suspended. It was, therefore, evident that the hon. gentleman might, to-morrow, by a stroke of his pen in an Order in Council, close our canals against the people of the United States. This was an important point, and, deprived of the right of dealing with the speech of the hon. gentleman on the occasion, in consequence of the ruling of Mr. Speaker, he now desired to correct the grave and serious error into which the hon. gentleman had fallen, because it led the Canadian people to suppose that we had deprived ourselves of the lever which, at any time, we might use if we desired it, for the purpose of obtaining better trade relations with the United States.

Mr. MACKENZIE said he had not fallen into error, but had stated what