

discover whether a pile of fish that was pointed out to him in the early part of the season as French fish, has not been taken away altogether and a pile of Nova Scotia fish put there. I am not accusing any of the merchants of Halifax of doing anything of this kind. But we know that merchants, as well as captains of ships—even the Minister of Customs, sometimes—make mistakes in matters like this; the merchants in stores make mistakes sometimes and imagine that they have paid the duty when they really have not, and it requires the Minister of Customs to point out these goods to them, but when he does so he does not accuse them very harshly, he does not say that have been guilty of any criminal offence; he simply asks them to pay the fine, and they pay it and go on again. These men who have French fish piled up in their stores—they do not make a mistake, oh, no, it is their employes who handle the fish who make the mistake; and they take away the French fish and put a pile of Nova Scotia fish in its place; and in this way there is a great deal of French fish passed through the fish markets in Nova Scotia. I was a little surprised at the hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Eisenhauer) not taking a more active part in this matter. I have before me a memorandum showing that at the time of his election that hon. gentleman condemned the importation of French fish into Nova Scotia. He declared that he would not buy any French fish, that he was opposed to its importation into Nova Scotia. I expected that he would come out again in the old fashion way. He belongs to a race of men who do not quibble when they talk about grievances. He has blood running in his veins that makes men prompt to talk about their grievances and to enforce a remedy; and I expected that he would have manifested that disposition which I know belongs to him, and that he would have condemned this importation of French fish with that vehemence of which he is capable, and spoken in favor of the large number of fishermen, of noble men, the large fish industry in the county of Lunenburg. There is no county surpassing the county of Lunenburg in the number of its fishermen, and in the importance of that industry. I was in hopes he would have risen and spoken with that vehemence which is characteristic of him, in favor of the fishermen of his county, and in condemnation of this practice, which is constantly increasing, of allowing French fish to come into the Province of Nova Scotia. Now, Sir, I want to say a word about the fresh fish industry. I am very sorry to say, that the people of these Upper Provinces have but very little idea of our fishing industry; they have but a slight idea of the importance, and of the value of our fish in Nova Scotia. Since I have been in Ottawa, I have been endeavoring to get a piece of Nova Scotia fish to eat, but I have entirely failed. Sir, if I had not advanced so far in the journey of life, I think I would make an effort in some way, to get some good Nova Scotia fish into Quebec and Ontario, to show the people what we have got down in Nova Scotia in the shape of good fish. I do hope that, now we are going to have the Short Line finished, now that we are going to have this great railway completed, now that Nova Scotia is going to be as near to Montreal as it is to those beautiful ports in the United States which our friends opposite love so well—I do hope that our ports in Nova Scotia, these poor commonplace towns down by the sea, will in some respects equal these wonderful cities in this land over which flies the great eagle that we hear about. I hope now, Sir, that these hon. gentlemen will second us in our efforts to supply this country with fresh fish. Sir, if we are assisted in this matter, if we are encouraged in this matter, not only by the Government but by all the loyal men of this Dominion, I feel satisfied that we will not be so desirous of seeking markets under foreign flags, and that we will be able to find an outlet for our fresh fish in these Upper Provinces. There is now a very large trade, and a continually increasing trade will grow up

between the Lower Provinces and the Upper Provinces in fresh fish. Then, Sir, I feel satisfied that another very important object will be gained by Nova Scotia supplying the Upper Provinces with her fresh fish. I hardly need to remind you, Mr. Speaker, that it is well known that Nova Scotia has supplied statesmen for this Dominion since Confederation. I was asked the other day how it was that we had done so, and whether we had a stock of statesmen lying in reserve. When I replied in the affirmative, I was asked how we had managed to manufacture them in such abundance and of such ability, and someone suggested that it must be because of our fish. Well, Sir, I believe that is a fact. People require fresh fish, not fish that has been lying round two or three days and been hawked round like the fish here. If we had the Short Line completed—and it all depends upon the Short Line—I am sure we would be able to supply all the Dominion with fresh fish, and also with statesmen equal to those who have been sent here from Nova Scotia. I trust the Minister of Customs will take this matter into consideration. Knowing the energetic manner in which the Minister conducts the business of his department, I feel very delicate in saying anything about the matter, for I do not consider I shall be able to make him break his record. I do not think there is any back down in the Minister of Customs. I have known some occasions when I should have been happy if he would have backed down, but he is the last man to back down, and he adheres to his views very determinedly. I suggest that the Minister of Customs should pay a visit to Nova Scotia and study up the fishery question, and study our fishing industries. He should travel through the Province and visit the county of Queen's, and look at the manner in which our fishing is conducted, and, after visiting Nova Scotia, he should travel also through Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick and spend three or four months by the sea. He would return here a different man, being much benefited by the sea air, and the information he would obtain would be of benefit to the Government, and he would then be able to meet hon. gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House when they again bring up the fisheries question. I hope he will pay us a visit and investigate the requirements of our fishermen. Above all, I desire that our fishermen should be fully protected against all foreign encroachments, for this is important to our fishing industry. For some time they were led away with the idea of unrestricted reciprocity. Some few years ago reciprocity was the great word on our shores, and the fishermen were led by gentlemen of the persuasion of hon. gentlemen opposite to believe that if they had reciprocity simply they would have everything necessary for their welfare, that the fish would give a kind of reciprocity, and in return for the kindness of fishermen offering them very nice bait, they would take hold of the lines a little more readily. So they were to obtain not only the market of the United States without paying duty, but they were to obtain an increased quantity of fish. They are getting their eyes opened now, they are beginning fully to understand the importance of the fishing industry, and if to-morrow the question were put to our fishermen whether they would be better off with the privilege of our fish entering the American market free of duty, and giving the Americans the privilege of using our fisheries, I believe they would hesitate a long time before they would decide that they would do so.

Mr. JONES (Halifax). No.

Mr. FREEMAN. The hon. gentleman says no; I say yes. I am not prepared to say what our fishermen would do, but I am prepared to say they would hesitate before they would freely give away our fisheries and so allow the Americans to come in and take charge of our harbors, our bays, and our country, and all our fisheries, for the privilege