

am not going into the details of this matter. There may have been discrepancies and inaccuracies, but I am quite sure they had no influence upon the deliberations of the Commission or the amount of the award. I may say that those proceedings were conducted in the most friendly manner throughout. The most friendly relations existed until the end. Professor Hind has communicated with Mr. Delfosse and Sir A. T. Galt, and he has published their answers to him, and they say distinctly that the subject referred to by him had no influence whatever upon the decision of the case. He has also communicated with Mr. Kellogg, the other Commissioner, who, however, is silent on the subject, as well as the American agent. Under all these circumstances it is extremely doubtful whether this matter is deserving of parliamentary attention at all. To show the way in which the business was conducted, and to show that the American gentlemen were well satisfied with it, I will just refer to a quotation from the closing speech of Mr. Dana, a gentleman well known in the United States and in this country. He says:

"We have been fortunate, gentlemen of the Commission, that no misfortune, no serious accident, in the long period of three months, while so many gentlemen have been together, has fallen upon us. The shadow of death has not crossed our path, nor that of any of ours at a distance, nor even has sickness visited us in any perilous manner. We have been sustained all the while by the extreme hospitality and kindness of the people of this city, who have done everything to make our stay here as agreeable as possible, and to breathe away any feeling we might have had at the beginning, lest there should be some antagonism which would be felt beyond the legitimate contests of the profession. The kindest feeling and harmony prevails among us all."

Mr. Thompson, who is now unfortunately no more, in his closing remarks, said:

"What shall I say to my brethren of the United States? To their uniform courtesy, tact and kindly feeling we chiefly owe it that this protracted inquiry has almost reached its termination without unpleasant difference or dissension of any kind."

This shows the entire satisfaction of the American gentlemen with the way the business was conducted on our part. Now I may say that this case was not decided materially by reports and statistics, but by oral testimony and by sworn affidavits consented to by all parties, and at the suggestion of the United States that this mode should be adopted. During that long and protracted inquiry of nearly four months we examined 83 witnesses and read 319 affidavits; the United States examined 78 witnesses and read 280 affidavits. This oral testimony and these written affidavits covered the whole ground of controversy, and I have no hesitation in saying that these returns and statistics that Professor Hind speaks of had no influence whatever on the decision. Both Sir A. T. Galt and Mr. Delfosse have stated that the deliberations were influenced by the oral testimony and the written affidavits that were produced before the Court. If that be the case what becomes of Professor Hind's charges? They are worthless, they are scarcely worth a consideration in my judgment. But while I say that, I am also prepared that inasmuch as this matter has received the consideration of a large portion of the press of the United States, and has attracted considerable attention in England, as I understand, from some of the public officers who are somewhat anxious about this matter, I may say that if I thought the American Government entertain an opinion that this Government or its officers or agents were capable of acting as Mr. Hind says they acted, I would a thousand times rather that the whole amount of this award should be paid back than that they should entertain any opinion of that kind. I repeat that if the American Government believed that we were capable of falsifying returns, of fabricating evidence, of using false testimony with a view of overreaching the Government of the United States in this controversy, I would much prefer that the whole amount should be given back. I will venture to suggest that if this Government and the Imperial Government have any

idea that the American Government believe there is a reasonable foundation for the accusation of Professor Hind, an inquiry should be instituted, and particularly if the American Government desires it. If this Government believes that such is the opinion the United States, I will suggest that they themselves propose that an inquiry should be held upon these charges. As for myself, I have great pleasure in saying that I am ready at anytime, and at all times, to meet an inquiry. In saying this I am sure I speak the sentiments of my colleagues in the late Government, and of Mr. Ford and Mr. Whitcher, and the other gentlemen who took an active part in the proceedings. I believe that my predecessor and the members of the then Government, would also accept the suggestion that if the American Government desire it, a full and strict investigation should be made into this matter. I am not going to say anything more. I feel that it is due to the American Government, that if they believe such a statement, that a wrong has been done them, we should give them every satisfaction, and should take every means to vindicate the honor of our own country. I will only say, in conclusion, that I desire to declare and affirm in my place in Parliament, that the charges and accusations made by Professor Hind are absolutely and entirely baseless, and that the case on both sides was conducted in a manner becoming to the dignity and honor of both countries.

Mr. MACDOUGALL. It is much to be regretted, I think, that it should be in the power of any official, especially one of the class to which Professor Hind belongs, to create a feeling of dissatisfaction and doubt in the minds of the people of this country, as well as the neighboring country, with respect to the *bond fides* of a great international arrangement such as that of the Fishery Treaty. But for some reason, which one can only guess at, this gentleman has labored assiduously—I judge from the great number of documents, and correspondence of one kind or another which have been printed, I suppose at his expense, and distributed, I presume, among the members of this House—to prove something; and I have tried, by a cursory examination of these documents to ascertain what it is—what specific charge Professor Hind has to make against the department and against the hon. gentleman opposite—because I see his name is mentioned, and Professor Hind says he had communicated to the hon. gentleman these alleged frauds before he left office—I say I have failed to discover or ascertain, to my own satisfaction, what it is that Professor Hind charges against the Canadian Government. He attacks Mr. Whitcher, an officer of the department, and, perhaps, from the letter I have before me, he regards him as the chief sinner or person who ought to be exposed. Well, if Professor Hind and Mr. Whitcher had conducted their correspondence privately and assailed each other to their hearts' content, I suppose no member of this House would have felt any anxiety about the matter. But Professor Hind has taken pains to cause his charges to be spread everywhere. Not only has he gone to the Colonial Office, but he has found access to numerous journals of the United States, and, as we know, the matter has attracted the attention of Congress. I say it is peculiarly unfortunate that it should have been in the power of any person in his position to bring about such results, because we know that the treaty will expire in a year or two, and it will be necessary to renew the treaty or make a new one, or enter into some friendly arrangement with reference to this same matter. Therefore it is a grave case, and I entirely agree with the suggestion of the hon. gentleman opposite, that if the Fishery Department or its officers have been able to discover any foundation whatever, any material, for the charge that any facts have been misrepresented or misstated, which could have influenced in any degree the action of the Fishery Commission, it is due to our own honor, and to the interests