

These are the articles which have been signed at Washington, and which have taken from the 13th November to the 13th of February to get through. Can any hon. gentleman present point out in what particulars the people of the United States have made concessions to Canada? I say again and say decidedly that the majority of the Canadian people would very much rather have said to the people of the United States "we will give you the privileges contained in that treaty as evidence of our good feeling and comity, and our desire to be at peace with you, and to remove any bitterness and contention arising out of this fishery question." Those are all the articles of this celebrated treaty that we have heard so much about, that hon. gentlemen have so lauded and for which they have paid such high compliments to the gentlemen who represented us on the Commission. They had little to do with it; it was what Hon. Joseph Chamberlain desired that had to be conceded by our representatives to the people at Washington. I have no hesitation in saying that the great majority of the intelligent people of this country desire free traffic with the people of the United States, not in fish alone, but in every other article of commerce in which the two countries deal. They desire that unrestricted traffic should prevail between the two countries, and believe that in that way all causes for irritation which now prevail would at once be removed. I have no doubt that had our Government, without the intervention of Commissioners, been bold enough and independent enough of the ties of the monopolists of this country to have said to the United States: "We are two peoples descended from the same stock, living alongside of each other in friendly rivalry, we mean to be friends; nothing should arise to create discord between us, and we believe that the surest way to cement that friendship is that our dealings should be unrestricted—that our trade should not in any way be tied or hampered—that our people should be free on either side of the line to buy and sell in each other's markets, that would have been the true solution of this question, and of every other question between two people

separated by an imaginary boundary over 3,000 miles in length extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But we could not make a treaty; we could do nothing with the United States. Our hands were tied, and the result of this treaty will be just as the result of every other treaty in which Canada was concerned between Great Britain and the United States in the past. We know that after the war of 1812 the population of this country was very small and scattered except in the Maritime Provinces. The line 45 was then considered the fair boundary between the two countries. There would have been no difficulty then in maintaining it had firmness and watchfulness been the watchword on the part of those who represented our interests. That line extended west to the Pacific as our boundary, but as years went on, the Americans, carrying out their theory that the whole boundless continent was theirs, in their desire to grasp Canadian territory, from time to time saw reason for quarreling with the boundaries East and West and if anybody now takes the boundary at the 45th parallel and follows the line through the Eastern townships he will find that on the East the boundary has been moved up into the interior of Canada, the State of Maine now reaching up so far North that when we desire to reach the ocean by a short line, or our friends in the Maritime Provinces we have to take a route through the State of Maine. That has all been the result of diplomacy, or the want of diplomacy on the part of those who were the representatives of Canadian interests in this treaty-making with the Republic on the other side of our border. It is notorious—it has been commented upon by the press of both countries time and again, and yet the system continues. It is only a few years ago we lost what we considered we had an undoubted right to on the Pacific coast—the Island of San Juan under the same system of leaving it to British diplomatists who did not care whether we were pleased or not, but desired to stand well with the American people. The result has always been that those who have negotiated those treaties at the expense of Canada's interests have invariably met with the ap-