

in favor of the Treaty.—(Hear, hear.) They are anxious to get admission of their fish into the American market; they would view with sorrow any action of this House which would exclude them from that market; they look forward with increasing confidence to a large development of their trade and of that great industry, and I say that being the case, if it be to the interest of the fishermen and for the advantage of that branch of the national industry, setting aside all other considerations, we ought not wilfully to injure that interest. What is the fact of the case as it stands now? The only market for the Canadian number one mackerel in the world is the United States. That is their only market and they are practically excluded from it by the present duty. The consequence of that duty is that they are at the mercy of the American fishermen; they are made the hewers of wood and drawers of water for the Americans. They are obliged to sell their fish at the American's own price. The American fishermen purchase their fish at a nominal value and control the American market. The great profits of the trade are handed over to the American fishermen or the American merchants engaged in the trade, and they profit, to the loss of our own people. Let any one go down the St. Lawrence on a summer trip, as many of us do, and call from the deck of a steamer to a fisherman in his boat and see for what a nominal price you can secure the whole of his catch, and that is from the absence of a market, and from the fact of the Canadian fisherman being completely under the control of the foreigner. With the duty off Canadian fish, the Canadian fisherman may send his fish at the right time, when he can obtain the best price, to the American market, and thus be the means of opening a profitable trade with the United States, in exchange. If, therefore, it is for the advantage of the Maritime Provinces, including that portion of Quebec which is so largely interested in the fisheries, that this Treaty should be ratified, and that this great market should be opened to them, on what ground should we deprive them of this right? Is it not a selfish argument that the fisheries can be used as a lever in order to gain reciprocity in flour, wheat and other cereals? Are you to shut them off from this great market in order that you may coerce the United States into giving you an extension of the reciprocal principle? Why, Mr. Speaker, if it were a valid argument, it would be a selfish one. What would be said by the people of Ontario if the United States had offered, for their own purposes, to admit Canadian grains free, and Nova Scotia had objected saying, "No, you shall not have that market; you must be deprived of that market for ever, unless we can take in our fish also; you must lose all that great advantage until we can get a market for our fish?" Apply the argument in this way and you will see how selfish it is. But the argument has no foundation, no basis of fact, and I will show this House how. In 1854, by a

strict and rigid observance of the principle of exclusion, the American fishermen were driven out of those waters. At that time the United States were free from debt, and from taxation, and they had large capital invested in their fisheries. Our fisheries were then in their infancy. They were a "feeble" people just beginning as fishermen, with little capital and little skill, and their operations were very restricted. I do not speak disparagingly but in comparison with the fishermen in the United States there was an absence of capital and skill. The United States were free from taxation, they had this capital and skill, and all they wanted was our Canadian waters in which to invest that capital and exercise that skill, but how is it altered now? Our fisheries are now no lever by which to obtain Reciprocity in grain. What do the United States care for our fisheries? The American fishermen are opposed to the Treaty. Those interested in the fisheries are sending petition after petition to the United States Government and Congress praying that the Treaty may be rejected. They say they do not want to come into our waters. The United States Government have gone into this Treaty with every desire to settle all possible sources of difficulty. Their fishermen complain that they will suffer by it, but the United States Government desire to meet us face to face, hand to hand, heart to heart, and to have an amicable settlement of all disputes. They know that they are not making political friends or gaining political strength because nearly the whole of the interest most affected by the Fishery articles is against the Treaty. But they desire that the ill-feelings which arose during the civil war, and from the Alabama case, should be forgotten. A feeling of friendship has grown up between the nations, and it can be no other desire than to foster and encourage that feeling which dictates the agreeing to those particular articles. The United States Government will simply say—well, if you do not like these arrangements, reject them—and the consequence will be on your own head if this friendship so auspiciously commenced is at any time broken by unhappy collisions in your waters. I am afraid I must apologize to the House for the uninteresting manner in which I have laid the subject before the House so far. I was shewing as well as I could my opinion and my reasons for that opinion, that under the circumstances, the Treaty, although it is not what I desired, and although it is not what I pressed for, ought to be accepted. I shall not pursue that branch of the subject to greater length, as during the discussion of the measure I have no doubt that I shall have again an opportunity to re-urge these and further views on the same subject as they may occur to me, or as they may be elicited. I shall however call the serious attention of the House, and especially of those members of the House who have given attention to the question in dispute as regards the validity of the several Treaties between the United States