

SUBSIDIES TO RAILWAYS.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I will, unless the hon. gentleman objects, go on with the Bill granting subsidies to railways. It is simply the resolutions, with one slight change.

Mr. BLAKE. The Bill is not yet distributed, and I have not had an opportunity of looking at it.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Of course, if the hon. gentleman objects, I cannot go on with it.

SUPPLY—CONCURRENCE.

House proceeded to consider resolutions reported from Committee of Supply.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Mr. BOWELL moved the second reading of the report of the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would explain what alteration this will make in his estimate of the revenue.

Mr. BOWELL. I am not aware it will make any material difference. I have not the figures with me, but I will give them to the House when we go into Committee on the Bill.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY—THE WASHINGTON TREATY.

Mr. BOWELL moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. WELDON. The importance of the matter I propose to bring before the House is my apology for calling attention to it at this period of the Session. I wish to call the attention of the House to the manner in which the Government have dealt with the termination of the Washington Treaty, and to show by facts laid before the House, that the Government in their conduct with respect to the abrogation of the articles of the Washington Treaty, have been guilty of delay and neglect. Their conduct may be characterised as having been gross and inexcusable in the like manner as the *Toronto Mail* characterised the action regarding the North-West. The value of the fisheries of the Maritime Provinces is so well known to this House that I need not dwell upon it. Sufficient it is to state that by the award made by the Halifax Commission we were granted about \$5,000,000 for ten years during which the treaty was in force. This subject, Mr. Speaker, is not only of importance to the Maritime Provinces, because it is not only in the waters that wash the Atlantic coast, where our fisheries are situated, but even in the Pacific there are countless millions of fish, so that to both the east and the west of this Dominion, this is a matter of great importance. Perhaps I cannot better characterise those fisheries than by using the words of the late Chief Magistrate of the United States, who spoke of the richly stocked fisheries and sealing grounds of British North America. You are aware that articles 18 to 25 of the Washington Treaty relate to the fisheries, and those articles provided, amongst other things, that the Americans should use our fishing grounds, that we should have the benefit of their fishing grounds, and that fish should be admitted into both countries respectively free of duty. By the 33rd article of that treaty, it was provided that two years' notice should be given by either country, in the event of a desire to terminate those articles. We are all aware that notice has been given of their termination, and I wish briefly to refer to the course pursued by the American Government, and the course pursued by this Government, with regard to it; and to show that despite

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

repeated applications to the Canadian Government, despite the fact that their attention was repeatedly called to it, the matter was allowed to slumber until no advantage could be gained to Canada. On the 10th of January, 1883, Senator Fry, of Maine, introduced a resolution into the Senate of the United States, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. On the 16th of January, 1883, the Hon. Mr. West forwarded a copy of that resolution to this Government. On the 2nd of February, a resolution was passed by the Senate of the United States; it was then referred to the House of Representatives, and on the 27th of February, the report of the Committee on Foreign Relations was accepted by the House. As the question may arise as to what took place at that time, I will call the attention of the House to the language of Mr. Rice, of Massachusetts, who was, I believe, a member if not chairman, of the Committee on Foreign Relations:

"I think if the gentlemen from Minnesota will hear the explanation which I will briefly give, it may, perhaps satisfy him on all points, with reference to the propriety of the adoption of this measure. By the Treaty of Washington certain sections were devoted to rights given in British waters to American fishermen. The amount that the United States was to pay for the privilege was to be settled by the Halifax Commission. The sum that was to be awarded by that commission paid for that right for the term of 12 years and no longer. The sum awarded by the Halifax Commission was \$5,500,000. We must now give notice, by the first of next July, of the abrogation of these clauses of that treaty, and provisions contained in the treaty for the abrogation of those clauses, and nothing else. So that the matter stands by itself or else we enter upon another term, for which England may demand ample payment from the United States, according to the enormous and unjust awards of the Halifax Commission for privileges which nobody in the United States, who has investigated the subject, consider worth keeping. The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, unanimously reported this resolution. It was adopted by the Senate without any objection; and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of this House, having fully examined the matter, unanimously instructed me to move the adoption of the resolution by the House, which I now do under that instruction. With this explanation, I trust that no objection will be made to the consideration of the resolution, which I am very sure, I can satisfy everybody, ought to be adopted, to avoid liability to further payment of an extortionate sum to Great Britain, for that which is not considered worth anything to us by parties who are interested in the matter and who have examined into it."

This was also communicated to this Government. On the 27th of February, 1883, that resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives, and on the 3rd of March, it received the approval of the President. On the 19th of March, after the resolution was finally passed, Mr. West enclosed copies of these resolutions to the Government. On the 28th of March, the late Colonial Secretary, Lord Derby, wrote the following:

"MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit to you, for communication to your Government, a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, reporting that a joint resolution for the termination of the fishery clauses of the Treaty of Washington, has passed the Senate.

"I shall, no doubt, receive an expression of the views and wishes of the Dominion Government in regard to the matter.

"I have, etc.,
"DERBY."

Although the Colonial Secretary intimated his wish to obtain the views and wishes of the Canadian Government in regard to the matter, no response was made to the Imperial Government. On the 2nd of April the Government forwarded papers, which were sent to Earl Granville, which contained the extract from the *Congressional Record* which I have already read, and, on the 2nd of April, Lord Derby forwarded a copy of a further despatch from the Foreign Office. Now, the despatch written from Washington on the 27th of February, 1883, by Mr. Saurin, acting for the legation, is as follows:—

"WASHINGTON, 27th February, 1883.

"MY LORD,—With reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honor to report that the Senate joint resolution for the termination of articles 18 to 25 and 30 of the Treaty of Washington, was yesterday read a third time in the House, and passed.

"I enclose, at the same time, a report from the *Congressional Record* of a speech made by Mr. Rice, of the Committee on Foreign Affairs,