

tion of the Opposition in this country was that on the Democratic party coming into power the Government of the United States would be more open to reciprocal trade relations with this country than the previous Administration, which has proved a mistake.

I am glad to find myself in accord with my hon. friend in the position he has taken on the fisheries question. He knows the importance of our fisheries. He, a Nova Scotian, knows that England's prestige to-day depends largely on her marine, and her supremacy on the sea is essential to her safety; and the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces will be, in the future, the source from which to draw for protection of the commerce of this country, and to avert blockade. We cannot feel too strongly that we should do all we possibly can to sustain them in their rights, not only under the treaty of 1818, but also against bounty-fed French fishermen. The leader of the Opposition spurns the idea; he is for throwing up the treaty of 1818 and giving the Americans all that they want. A proposition of that kind coming from any public representative will be denounced by every man in the lower Provinces, fisherman or no fisherman. We know well the feeling there. Even lately, when we were threatened with non-intercourse, our people were making ready for it. Though they knew that, for the moment, non-intercourse might paralyze the trade of the Lower Provinces with the United States, it was with the strongest determination they were prepared to meet it, and the result was to arouse a stronger feeling of loyalty amongst the people, to develop inter-provincial and colonial trade and find other outlets for their produce, and they felt that in the end it would be for their benefit. They believe that instead of the United States merchants being the middlemen for the marketing of some of our fish our own merchants should take all their fish to the markets of the world, and instead of building up American ports by sending our products over there to be shipped in bond to the West Indies and South America, we would largely control that trade in our own country. Injurious as it might have proved at the time if non-intercourse had been established, I believe that in the end it would have been of vast advantage to Canada's entire

freedom and independence of American markets.

Now, as regards the treaty of 1818, this "barbarous" treaty, as my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition terms it, I think it is the most humane and generous treaty that was ever conceded to the United States under the then existing circumstances. The people of that country had no right to fish in our territorial waters at all, and no right to enter our harbors for supplies or bait, or for any other purpose. We gave all the concessions they asked for—concessions that they ought not to have had—concessions on the coast of Newfoundland, Labrador and on the Magdalen Islands, which to-day we would regret, and which now imperil the fishing industries of those quarters. I do not wish at the present moment to discuss the fisheries question. I hope that the Government in carrying out strictly the treaty of 1818 will be so guarded in their instructions to their officials that before any acts are committed they must have clear proof of the offence, that the infractions are unmistakable and designed, that they are a flagrant violation of the treaty of 1818. As long as we stand by that treaty and maintain our fishing rights thereunder our fishermen will be proud and thankful. The fishermen of the lower Provinces are opposed to the *modus vivendi*, and were so from the first; and believing that it was only a temporary expedient to prevent any irritation while negotiations were pending in the United States, they accepted it. As soon as they found that all negotiations had failed their desire was then that they be allowed to stand on their strict rights, and they believe that by so doing the United States will find it to their advantage to come in and make a treaty which, I hope, will not be more favorable to our neighbors than the present one. We offered them concessions which, I believe, our fishermen would never have consented to or approved of but for the fact that they considered in so doing they were consulting the best interests of Canada as a whole, and not their own individual rights and interests. The feeling prevails everywhere throughout Canada, as regards our great fishing industry, that we should retain it undisturbed, and concede nothing through any feeling of cowardice.