

we will make any further concessions or not, and the government of Canada and the parliament of Canada have so far seen proper to exclude the people of the United States from the privilege of transshipping fish in bond from Canadian ports to ports in the United States, except where they choose to take out a license for that purpose. Now, with regard to our rights on the Pacific coast, our neighbours over the way, with whom we are anxious to be on good terms and to have a good understanding, so far as our self-respect and our regard for our own interests will permit us, may adopt such policy as they deem proper for themselves, but not without regard to our rights of navigation in the Stikine and other rivers mentioned in the treaty of Washington. We have the right to use those rivers for commercial purposes, and, as an incident to that commercial use, we have a right to tranship our goods from sea-going ships to those that are suited to river navigation. We have the right to moor our ships to the shore or bank of the river where it is necessary to do so, and we have these incidental rights without being subject to any duty or any charge on the part of the government of the United States, other than that which they might make for their own citizens under like circumstances, and so we do not anticipate, whatever the Senate may declare in this matter, that Congress, as a whole, will ultimately adopt a course in contravention of the rights that we possess under the treaty of Washington or that they will attempt any breach of faith. It is our intention to pursue our own course, to maintain our own authority, to adopt those measures which we believe in the interests of this country and the proper development of our territories. We are doing nothing to interfere with our neighbours, or to exhibit towards them any hostile spirit. We have permitted all other foreigners who chose to come into our country, to engage in mining operations in the Yukon territory. We have subjected them to such burdens as we think are in the public interest, and it is the intention of the government to pursue that course and to adopt all those measures necessary to ensure law and order in that country and maintain our authority and to uphold the sovereignty of Queen Victoria in the Yukon country. .

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I was somewhat startled when I read the proceedings in the

Senate of the United States to which the hon. member from Hastings has referred, and I had prepared myself to bring the subject before this House, pretty much in the same way that the hon. gentleman has brought it, until I found that it had been brought up in the other branch of parliament and fully discussed, and full information given to the public in regard to it. I must say I was somewhat alarmed when I read that in the discussion in the United States a statement had been made to the effect that it was well understood that the fishing rights of the maritime provinces of this Dominion could easily be obtained in exchange for customs concessions at Wrangel or elsewhere on the Pacific coast. I say I was surprised at the confidence with which that assertion was made in the Senate of the United States by men who seemed to be thoroughly and authoritatively informed. My fears, too, were not without some reasonable foundation. I called to mind the occasion on which the premier of this country, shortly after he was installed in the high office which he now fills, visited the United States and gave an interview to a leading journal in that country in which he spoke of the restrictions of the treaty of 1818 and generally of our invaluable fishing rights as liable to be given up to the United States on very small consideration. Elsewhere he had spoken of these restrictions as relics of a barbarous age. The fishery products of this country amounted last year to over \$20,000,000—and I may say the province that I represent is more deeply interested in the fisheries than any other province of the Dominion, producing nearly one-third of the whole production of that industry in the Dominion—and I say I was alarmed at the confidence with which those statements were made in the Senate of the United States when I called to mind the utterances of the Prime Minister both before and after he had attained office. I was reassured, however, when I read the report of the discussion in another place yesterday, and very much pleased with the emphatic manner in which the Prime Minister repudiated any intention of mixing up the settlement of the fisheries question on the Atlantic coast of the Dominion with any difficulties that might have to be settled with the United States government upon the Pacific coast. I hope if ever the day comes when we shall be called upon to negotiate for a surrender of our fishing rights it will