

proval of of the British people because they have removed causes of irritation between Great Britain and the United States.

Looking over the report, I find that Mr. Bayard a year ago suggested to the Canadian people that they were rather extreme in the interpretation that they put upon this treaty—that it was not in accord with his reading of it. What was the answer then of this Government when left to itself, and not speaking under the inspiration of Imperial Councils :—

“ Such a surrender on the part of Canada would involve the abandonment of a valuable portion of the natural inheritance of the Canadian people, who would certainly visit with just reprobation those who were guilty of so serious neglect of the trust committed to their charge.”

Has that trust now been saved and preserved? Have they faithfully adhered to the trust which the Canadian people gave them to preserve their rights, when they conceded what they have by this treaty, though much that they contended for belonged rightfully and truthfully to the Canadian people? I say again it would be more manly and more in accordance with the spirit of the Canadian people if these concessions had been granted without the intervention of a treaty at Washington; but it appears that there was a good deal of gush over all that we had gained. I have read all the articles of the treaty, and I certainly fail to see where the Americans have given us one iota in exchange for the privileges we have granted them. It is perfectly apparent that we have conceded a great deal—that is, if we are right in the conclusion and in the judgment we formed as to the true interpretation of the Treaty of 1818. When all was done, in a feeling of gush and generosity our Ministers made a voluntary offer; there was a rider attached to this treaty. As an evidence of their desire to promote good feeling and to remove all possible subjects of controversy, they granted for a period of two years to the American fishermen rights which they might otherwise obtain if Congress removed the duty from Canadian fish going to the American market. Article XV of the Treaty, and which is given up for the present, makes this provision :—

“ Whenever the United States shall remove the duty from fish oil, whale oil, seal oil, and fish of all kinds (except fish preserved in oil) being the produce of fisheries carried on by the fishermen of Canada, including Labrador, as well as from the usual and necessary casks, barrels, kegs, cans and other usual and necessary coverings containing the products above mentioned, the like products being the produce of fisheries carried on by the fishermen of the United States, as well as the usual and necessary coverings of the same, as above described, shall be admitted free of duty into the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland, and upon such removal of duties, and while the aforesaid articles are allowed to be brought into the United States by British subjects without duty being re-imposed thereon, the privilege of entering the ports, bays and harbors of the aforesaid coasts of Canada and Newfoundland shall be accorded to United States fishing vessels by annual licenses free of charge, for the following purposes.”

(It must be remembered that when the United States choose to do that it can only be done by Congress :—)

1. “ The purchase of provisions, bait, ice, seines, lines and all other supplies and outfits.
2. The transhipment of catch for transport by any means of conveyance.
3. Shipping of crews.”

When Congress is willing to do all that, then we say we will do certain other things: but in a spirit of gush our plenipotentiaries, desire, at all events, for a period of two years, to anticipate any action of Congress, and they add this rider.

What is to be gained by continuing to American fishermen for two years the privilege of entering the bays and harbors on the coasts of Canada and Newfoundland, I really cannot see, and I fail to appreciate it. Just after the Treaty of Washington expired we named a period of six months that the conditions of the treaty on our part should be continued and the American fishermen were during that time to have all those benefits and privileges. It did not succeed, however, in having the effect that was anticipated. Now, we offer for a period of two years further privileges, that they may appreciate, I suppose, the immense advantages they will gain, and in that way it is expected to operate as a lever to obtain for us the legislation we