

instead of sailing with a free wind and a flowing sail, free from all unnecessary restrictions. The tea duties are also unjust and iniquitous.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH said:—I would not have occupied the time of the House but for the clause in His Excellency's speech, respecting our fishery claims under the Washington Treaty, which says:—"I regret that I am still unable to announce any progress in obtaining a settlement of the fishery claims under the Washington Treaty, though my Government has made every effort to secure that result." I join issue on this clause and the answer thereto, in the Address now before us, that this Government were ready to fling away our claims for a bad reciprocity treaty. The leader of the Government virtually surrendered them in his Lambton speech. And I am satisfied that the Government are not sufficiently alive to the interests of our fisheries; that they do not know or appreciate them, and that they are, and have been, disposed to barter them away in the hopes of obtaining a Reciprocity Treaty. To my mind, it is quite clear that they have not only been wasting time, but jeopardizing our honor and sacrificing the interests of our country, to a great extent, and our claims under that treaty, in order to gratify the ambition of the honorable gentleman, who at that time was elevated to a seat in this chamber. At the time the change of Government took place, the present Government had all the statistics and information in their hands that had been compiled and prepared by the commissioners, who had been appointed by England and Canada to meet and arbitrate on those claims, but instead of trying to obtain a settlement the Government had sent their agent with those facts and figures to Washington and used them up to negotiate a Reciprocity Treaty, which I am glad to say was never adopted, and which, if it had been adopted, would have proved detrimental to the best interests of the Dominion. Therefore I cannot join in the remark that the Government have done all in their power to have the fishery claims adjudicated upon. The United States have had for the past six years the use of our fisheries without paying any remuneration for them. They have been receiving a value from us estimated equal to four millions of dollars annually, which if capitalized would amount to about \$60,000,000, which would be a very important item to the Maritime Provinces if they received their share of it, and they might fairly claim the whole of it. The American fishermen come into our waters now and take our fish without any remunera-

tion, and by the system of bounties which they receive from their Government they drive our fish out of their market. When we take our fish to the West India markets we cannot bring return cargoes except occasionally salt, and perhaps, a few oranges and cocoa-nuts. We cannot bring back raw sugar from the West Indies as our refineries are crushed out of existence, and we are at a great disadvantage with our competitors. The Americans by their policy of protection have obtained control of our market for refined sugar, as we have to pay as much duty on sugars brought into the country for refining as Americans pay for refined sugars exported. Under their drawback system the American refiner can sell his sugar at least sixty cents per 100 lbs. cheaper in our Dominion than our our refiners can. It is not to be wondered at that the Americans have control of our market, and we are helping to build up the refineries of the United States and giving employment to their workmen, which we deny to our own people. By the policy of our Government we are fast being made a commercial dependency of the United States, and in that respect helping them to carry out the "manifest destiny" theory of the Republic. It is folly for us to talk of extending our trade with the West Indies under the present circumstances. Our Government are helping to develop all the industries of the United States by their policy, and are making it a necessity for this country to purchase from our Republican neighbors; and so long as we do not adopt a tariff to counteract the policy of the Americans, so long will we be obliged to carry our return cargoes from the West Indies into the United States and purchase our refined sugars from American manufacturers. We are told we must have a revenue; but can it possibly be a wise system of Government to exclude the raw material from our country. If the Government would reduce the unrefined sugar duty about one-half and raise the duty on American refined sugars, the obstacle in the way of Canadian refiners would be overcome. We should have a national and domestic policy of our own, not one that is to be changed from year to year, that would develop and build up the industries of our country to the benefit of the whole Dominion. The Finance Minister opened his budget last year by declaring that the present circumstances of the country deserved the greatest consideration, and yet we see the Government are content to let things drift on as they are. Could the impotency of the Administration be more manifest? Our farmers and laborers, in fact all who inter-