

February 15, 1871

correspondence relating to the fisheries as could be so produced without injury to the public interests. His hon. friend must know that it was a subject, under the present circumstances, to be very carefully handled, and he had no doubt that on a matter of so great importance the government would receive every consideration at the hands of the hon. members opposite. They would, as they had done on other similar occasions, aid the government, and avoid any course which might by any possibility prejudice the interests of the country, so soon as the address was answered, the papers asked for would be brought down.

Mr. MACKENZIE was aware that the general usage was as stated by his hon. friend, but there had been exceptions to it, and on very important questions like this, a departure from the custom might be admitted. He thought it unnecessary for the Hon. Premier to call on his supporters to aid him.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said he appealed to his hon. friend opposite, and not to his supporters. He said that on a matter of national interest we might expect a favourable consideration from the hon. members opposite.

Mr. MACKENZIE said he must have misunderstood his hon. friend, and he would not make the remarks that he had intended. The Government could always count on the patriotic assistance of the Opposition on matters of such importance.

Hon. Sir A.T. GALT said that the returns on this question brought down last year, were very short and he would be glad that his hon. friend would see that the returns this year were more complete—as much so as was compatible with the public interests.

The House then adjourned at 4.05.