

Canada and authority of Her Majesty's ships exercised on her own subjects. In view of all these things, I rather congratulate the Government than otherwise on their being able to bring before this House a renewal of the *modus vivendi* for another year, because it leads me to hope and believe that the Americans are at last learning to understand the feelings of Canadians towards them more correctly than they had done upon previous occasions.

HON. MR. PROWSE—Is there any encouragement to expect Newfoundland to co-operate, as on former occasions, with us—to recognize the licenses of the Dominion Government, so that they may be mutual between the two Governments?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I hope the House will give us credit for acting in this respect with the most earnest regard possible for the interests of this country. My hon. friend from Halifax has spoken on the subject in a way that it seems to me only points to a line of policy which I think would hardly be prudent. If we are not content to carry on diplomatic negotiations in a diplomatic way, pressing them as we are doing to the best of our ability consistent with self-respect, they having been carried on, as this House knows, continuously for a considerable period past, if we are not satisfied to carry on our negotiations in that way, what are we to do? Shall we withdraw our Minister who is at Washington assisting in these negotiations, and declare war with the United States?

HON. MR. POWER—I never suggested anything of the kind.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—No; but he suggested that we should not come forward with propositions of this description while we were so badly used by the United States. The Government regret as much as my hon. friend the injustice that has been done our people by the violation of international law in Behring's Sea, and we are doing our best to bring about a better state of things. In doing that we are loyally and earnestly and vigorously aided by England. The representative of the Imperial Government, assisted by our own Minister, has been for some months—a couple of months at least—engaged in pressing negotiations, which had been carried on for some time before by correspondence. Of course it is quite impossible

for us to tell this House, or the public, or the newspapers, what we learn every day from Washington of the progress of negotiations there. It would be inconsistent with the possibility of any reasonable arrangement that the Government should promulgate the progress of those negotiations to the public from day to day. But in every step that we take—in the step I am taking—we are guided by the best judgment we can form in the progress of those negotiations, as to what is best for us to do, and we believe it is best for us now to remove any possible irritation that might arise from the fact that a large number of fishing vessels are now awaiting licenses. We think it better to pass this Bill, and remove that slight cause of irritation from the scene of the negotiations. We do this with the idea that it is the best thing to do—we do it according to the best of our judgment. We are conducting the affair as well as we can, and we ask the House to have so much confidence in our judgment as to pass this measure with a little more expedition than perhaps it would otherwise do—not much difference—perhaps twenty-four hours; more especially as it is a measure which is literally the same, word for word, as the one which passed both Houses in 1878.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—My hon. friend behind me asked a question which I consider very important with respect to Newfoundland.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Newfoundland has declined to concur with us this year in granting those licenses so far; but in this Bill which is before the House we make a provision which will enable us to join Newfoundland as soon as she feels disposed to join with us in carrying out the system.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—It would be very injurious to the fishermen of Nova Scotia if Newfoundland should refuse to co-operate with us. The United States fishing vessels, by paying \$1.50 per ton, can enter at any time the Newfoundland ports and purchase bait, while our fishing vessels must pay \$1 a ton every time they enter a Newfoundland port. What is in our favor is this: As long as the United States recognize that their vessels coming in there have to pay this fee of \$1 per ton they recognize our rights