

them a pressure on the American Government for the purpose of preventing the admission of Canadian coal and salt into the American market, and from that I have no doubt came the withdrawal by the American Commissioners of their offer. When my hon. friend from Bothwell [Mr. Mills] said last Session, "there goes the Canadian National Policy," he was little aware of the consequences of the reckless course he had taken [hear, hear]. Hon. gentlemen may laugh, but they will find it no laughing matter. The people of Canada, both East and West, will hold to strict account those who acted so unpatriotically in this matter. Under these circumstances, Mr. Spenger, I felt myself powerless, and when the American Commissioners made their last offer, which is now in the Treaty offering reciprocity in fisheries, that Canadians should fish in American waters, and that Americans should fish in Canadian waters, and that fish and fish oil should be reciprocally free, and that if on arbitration it were found that the bargain was an unjust one to Canada, and Canada did not receive sufficient compensation for her fisheries by that arrangement, it was remitted to Her Majesty's Government to say what should be done, and as it will be seen by the last sentence of the protocol, "The subject was further discussed in the conferences of April 18th and 19th and the British Commissioners having referred the last proposal to the Government, and received instructions to accept it, the "Treaty articles, 18 to 25, were agreed to at the Conference on the 23rd of April." Thus then it occurred that these articles from 18 to 25 are portions of the Treaty. One of these articles reserves to Canada the right of adoption or rejection and it is for this Parliament now to say whether under all the circumstances it should ratify or reject them. The papers that have been laid before the House show what was the opinion of the Canadian Government. Under present circumstances of that question, the Canadian Government believe that it is for the interest of Canada to accept the Treaty, to ratify it by legislation. [Hear, hear.] They believe it is for the interest of Canada to accept it, and they are more inclined to believe it from the fact which I must say has surprised me, and surprised my colleagues, and has surprised the country—that the portion of the Treaty which was supposed to be most unpopular and most prejudicial to the interests of the Maritime Provinces has proved to be the least unpopular. [Hear, hear.] Sir, I could not have anticipated that the American fishermen, who were offered the advantages of fishing in our waters would be to a man, opposed to the Treaty as inflicting upon them a great injury. I could not have anticipated that the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces who, at first expressed hostility, would now, with a few exceptions, be anxious for its adoption. [Hear, hear.] In viewing these articles of the Treaty, I would call the consideration of the House to the fact that their scope and aim have been greatly mis-

represented by that portion of the Canadian press which is opposed to the present Government. It has been alledged to be an ignominious sale of the property of Canada, a bartering away of the territorial rights of this country for money. Sir, no allegation could be more utterly unfounded than this. [Hear, hear.] It is no more a transfer and sale of the territorial rights of Canada than was the treaty of 1854. The very basis of this treaty is reciprocity. [Hear, hear.] To be sure it does not go as far and embrace as many articles as the treaty of 1854. I am sorry for it. I fought hard that it should be so, but the terms of this Treaty are terms of reciprocity, and the very first clause ought to be sufficient evidence upon that point, for it declares that Canadians shall have the same right to fish in American waters, that Americans will have under the Treaty to fish in Canadian waters. True it may be said that our fisheries are more valuable than theirs, but that does not affect the principle. The principle is this—that we were trying to make a reciprocity arrangement and going as far in the direction of reciprocity as possible. The principle is the same in each case, and as regards the Treaty that has been negotiated it is not confined to reciprocity in the use of the inshore fisheries of the two countries. It provides that the products of the fisheries of the two nations, fish oil as well as fish, shall be interchangeably free. The only departure from the principle of reciprocity in the present treaty is the provision, that if it shall be found that Canada had made a bad bargain and had not received a fair compensation for what she gave; if it shall be found that while there was reciprocity as to the enjoyment of rights and privileges, there was not true reciprocity in value, then the difference in value should be ascertained and paid to this country. [Hear, hear.] Now if there is anything approaching to the dishonourable and the degrading in these proposals I do not know the meaning of those terms. [Hear, hear.] This provision may not be one that will meet the acceptance of the country, but I say that the manner in which it has been characterized, is a wilful and deliberate use of language which the parties employing it did not believe at the time to be accurate, and to which they resorted for political reasons, and in order to create misapprehensions in the country. Sir, there was no humiliation. Canada would not tolerate an act of humiliation on the part of its Government. England would neither advise nor permit one of her faithful colonies to be degraded and cast down [cheers]. But it is said that the American fisheries are of no value to us. They are not as valuable as ours it is true, but still they have a substantial value for us in this way—that the exclusion of Canadian fishermen from the American coast fisheries would have been a loss to the fishing interests of the Maritime Provinces, and I will tell you why. It is quite true that the mackerel fishery, which is the most valuable fishery on these coasts, belongs chiefly to Canada,