

towards establishing a good feeling between those countries, that is a strong argument to vote for any measure that may have that tendency. It is our duty as subjects of the Empire to which we belong to do all in our power to prevent any such contingency as I have foreshadowed. If that could only be done at the expense of some sacrifices to the country, Canadians should be the last to hesitate to make them. With reference to Canada being a source of weakness to England, I am convinced that I say nothing more than the truth when I state that the great body of the British nation is just as determined as ever, as long as Canada desires to be connected with the British Empire, to maintain that tie which now binds it to its dependencies. When we look back to the past and remember all that Great Britain has done for her colonies, and consider the many benefits they receive from British connection, we ought to feel that we should not hesitate to make sacrifices when England believes it necessary. We have heard it said that by passing this Bill we are conceding sovereign rights without receiving any adequate consideration inasmuch as we give up the fisheries and the navigation of the St. Lawrence. With regard to the navigation of the St. Lawrence, I contend that question has been fully disposed of. It has been shown by several speakers that this concession really amounts to nothing, while we must benefit our own trade by inducing the Americans to pass through our own canals. As respects the Fisheries, when one is in doubt on a question of that kind, one desires to hear the opinions of those who are most deeply interested in the matter. Having unfortunately been prevented from attending in my place until to-day, and being naturally anxious to follow the debates on this question, I read the discussion elsewhere with great interest. It does appear to me that the arguments used by gentlemen who really understand the question, show irresistibly that that part of the Dominion especially affected by this Act, is to receive undoubted benefits from its provisions. It has been said that the interests of Ontario have been sacrificed because one of the means which we had for obtaining reciprocity has been given away. I have always believed that when the United States repealed the Treaty, they were actuated a good deal by their feeling towards this country. Instead of entertaining the opinion that the passage of this measure is to prevent complete reciprocity, I believe that it will have the very contrary effect. There can

be no question that the Fishery rights have led to a great deal of controversy and irritation. I think so long as those rights were properly exercised we should be allowed to enjoy them. At the same time I conscientiously believe that if this Bill passes, and the Treaty arrangements are carried out, the feeling of friendliness towards us that will be engendered in the United States will ultimately lead to the adoption of reciprocity in the fullest degree. Much stress has been laid on the Fenian claims, that we were selling our honor for money—that we ought not to receive compensation for wrongs of that kind. I have been accustomed to think that as long as we remain subjects of the British Empire, the Imperial authorities are answerable for any matters of that character; and if they do not deem it advisable under the circumstances to press these Fenian claims, it appears to me that no discredit can be reflected on Canada. If there is any discredit at all, it must be thrown upon the Imperial Government for it alone is answerable. If the Imperial Government, then, in the interest of peace, decide not to urge these claims *à l'outrance*, let the responsibility rest upon them and not upon Canada. For my part, I cannot see that there is anything derogatory or offensive to our sense of national honor when England chooses to reimburse us for the losses we have sustained. For those and other reasons, which I will not weary the House by urging, I have much pleasure in voting for the second reading of the Bill now under consideration.

Hon. Mr. GIRARD followed and made a few remarks in French, expressive of the wish of the people of Manitoba to see peace ensured to the Dominion, so that it might continue in the career of prosperity on which it has entered. He stated it was his intention to vote for the measure.

The question of concurrence in the second reading of the bill being put, the same was resolved in the affirmative, and the bill was then read a second time accordingly.

The House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, 29th May, 1872.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Bills on the following subjects were read a third time:—Caughnawaga Canal, G. T. R. and Town of Galt, Detroit River Tunnel Co., Northern Railway Extension, Martin's Divorce Presbyterian Church Widows' and Orphans' Fund, Banks and Banking, Ex-