

west, they will see that it is completed at an early date at the east end too.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B. C.)—I hope the hon. gentleman will allow me to correct an error into which he has fallen. He states that the population of British Columbia is only 20,000. If he will look at the census of 1881 he will find that the population is very much larger.

HON. MR. POWER—The white population.

HON. MR. MCINNES—I am not speaking of the white population; neither do I think, when the population of Nova Scotia or any other province is mentioned, that any distinction is made between white, black and red. The population of British Columbia is nearer 75,000 than 20,000.

HON. MR. POWER—Perhaps I overstated the number of whites and understated the number of Indians. I do not think the Indians are likely to give much trade to the Canadian Pacific Railway.

HON. MR. MCINNES—Yes they do.

HON. MR. POWER—In case of an outbreak perhaps they will, but not otherwise. Coming from one of the Maritime provinces which is largely interested in the fisheries question—more largely than any other province of the Dominion—I must confess to a feeling of disappointment at the tone of the paragraph which deals with that question. It is evident that the Government do not feel hopeful of a successful end to the negotiations for the renewal of the Washington Treaty, and they speak of making provision for the protection of our inshore fisheries, by the extension of our present system of marine police. I presume the English of that paragraph is that the fishery clauses of the Washington Treaty will not be renewed, and that there will be nothing to take their place, of a general character like the former reciprocity treaty. Now, why are we in this position? It may be that that position is an unavoidable one; but I must say that I think the course of the Government in connection with this matter has not been one which we should approve of. It has been practically to do nothing whatever;

and the reason that they gave for doing nothing was that if they were to attempt anything it would manifest an anxiety for the renewal of the treaty, which would lead the Americans to think that we valued it very highly and that therefore they should not give it to us. I think, to begin with, that it is absurd to suppose that a business-like people like the Americans would be governed by considerations of that sort. If it is clear to the American Government and people that the Washington Treaty or a wider treaty—a reciprocity treaty—would be beneficial to themselves as well as to us, I do not think they are so silly as to refuse to negotiate such a treaty because we would share the benefits derived from it. Here we have the same government which year after year excused their doing nothing towards getting a renewal of the Washington Treaty or of the reciprocity treaty on the ground which I have just mentioned, giving away at the close of the treaty the whole season of fishing to the Americans for no consideration whatever. Now what greater proof could we give of our anxiety for a renewal of the treaty and our fear of offending the American people or their government than to give them for nothing all the benefits which they enjoyed under the treaty? What has been the practical result of this? The fishermen of Massachusetts have interpreted this action of our government as an indication of weakness, and probably as an indication that our government did not believe that the fishing rights which the Americans enjoyed under the treaty were of any great value; and, having got them for nothing, they are able to speak of them as being valueless and to use that as a strong argument against a renewal of the treaty. If the Government, which had two years notice of the proposed abrogation of this treaty, instead of folding their arms and doing nothing, had made preparations to deal in a summary and vigorous way with the American fishermen when the treaty did terminate, and if in addition to that they had taken pains to secure such statistics as would have shown that the Washington Treaty and the previous Reciprocity Treaty had been of the greatest benefit to the United States, then we would have been in an infinitely better position to deal with the United States