

tention of both Governments was drawn to the desirability of having some reciprocal relations in regard to the trade between the two countries. An opportunity seemed to present itself for considering this question, when, under the Washington Treaty, it became necessary to receive an extra compensation for the fisheries. It was well known that in the past they had always been the losers in their treaties—he would refer to that with the State of Maine—whether from the apathy of the Imperial Commissioners, through whom all our negotiations had to be filtered, or from some other cause, they invariably lost a good deal. The hon. gentleman knew that they had to speak through a power on the other side of the Atlantic, and that, however keenly they might feel their position and the interests of the people, those interests must necessarily suffer somewhat from the delays and other inconveniences consequent on the intervention of a superior power. In the treaties respecting the boundaries of Canada our interests had been largely sacrificed. It was only a short time since the San Juan difficulty. There again they were checkmated, if he might use the term, by the cause of this country not being fairly represented. He was sure they must all coincide with this feeling; and they must also see that if the question of the value of these fisheries was placed beyond their management and control, they would receive a much smaller sum in exchange than they were fairly entitled to. It would, therefore, be a less damaging cloud upon their national honor if these fisheries could be exchanged for some equivalent which would increase the trade relations between the two countries. The hon. gentleman said he had prepared the treaty; he denied the fact, and he would ask hon. members to compare the course pursued by the hon. gentleman at Washington with that pursued by the representatives of the Dominion four or five years ago, when it became notorious that large sums of money had been spent to bring about the treaty which they were seeking. But as the hon. gentleman had said, and said in a spirit of which he felt proud, the arrangements of this treaty had been honestly drawn up, as

between two great countries—(hear, hear)—and the whole cost of the negotiation was under \$4,000. He contended that this small sum could have occasioned no undue pressure in carrying on the negotiations. All who had given any attention to the subject were aware that America was in a state of extreme difficulty and embarrassment; things had been at a dead lock for eighteen months; the representatives at Congress had sat up twenty, twenty-five, and even thirty hours, discussing important questions. With so many difficulties to contend against, they could hardly be expected to be desirous of considering a treaty with their neighbors who lived on their northern boundary. But apart from that (and he thought it was one of the best arguments in refutation of the charges made by the hon. gentleman), he would point to the very great efforts made by the lumber trade, the iron trade, and the woollen manufacturers to stop the course of this treaty. Nearly all those who were at the head of the woollen manufactures opposed it; while those engaged in the iron trade of Pennsylvania pointed out the injurious effect it would have upon their trade; and the lumbermen of Massachusetts sent representatives to Washington to get this treaty quashed, because it would give us such an immense advantage over them. He hardly thought it fair to this House that hon. gentlemen who were at an advantage over the others in respect of their information of the details of the treaty, should discuss this question, and it would have been much better if the hon. member for Kingston had deferred his criticism till the motion of the hon. member for Toronto had been passed, and the papers had come down. He then could have put a motion on the table for an enquiry. They knew that on delicate questions of this kind they were extremely sensitive, and it was unwise to give utterance to the criticisms which possibly they might feel in relation to this topic. He thought that the feeling which had prompted the States to withhold the treaty would eventually be dispelled, and that the general opinion would soon prevail that, living alongside a people who enjoyed the same climate and temperature, and