

a position to express an opinion on that report. In referring to the subject in the debate on the address, he expressed the hope that the Minister of Justice had called the attention of Lord Carnarvon to these important matters. He thought his honorable friend (Mr. Bureau) had done good service in bringing the subject before the House.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said the honorable gentleman from Arichat had chosen an unfortunate line of argument to take a fling at the Administration. If anybody was responsible for the weakness of the Washington Treaty it was the former Government. The honorable gentleman had stated that Parliament had given away nothing under that treaty but the navigation of the St. Lawrence, but if the honorable Senator would read the treaty again with more care he would find they had also given up the navigation of the Welland and St. Lawrence canals.

Hon. Mr. MACPHEE—Not given up by the treaty, but with the assent of Canada only.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Nobody, of course, reads treaties with care but the honorable gentleman (?)

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said the honorable gentleman knew very well that Canada gave her assent, but the American vessels were navigating our canals the moment the treaty was perfected, and the Dominion entered into an agreement to expend eight or ten millions of dollars in enlarging the St. Lawrence and Welland Canals. It was not done simply for the benefit of the Americans, but for the benefit of the trade of this country, and he was not finding fault with it. The honorable gentleman had charged the present Government with being responsible for the non-settlement of the fisheries question. The treaty was made at Washington, in 1871, and the Parliament of Canada, under the auspices of the late Administration gave to the American fishermen the right to come in and fish in our waters without seeking, in the first place, to enforce the conditions of the treaty, even before commissioners were named, thus placing it beyond the power of this Government to enforce the one important clause of that treaty in which we were interested. A law was passed, under which American fishermen were allowed equal rights with Canadian and British fishermen in our inshore fisheries. That law came into force the first of July, 1873, previous to the change of Government. When Canada parted with that right, she parted with the only lever she had to compel the United States to give us a recipro-

city treaty, and the American Government failed to fulfil their part of the agreement. When the present Administration came into power they found no progress had been made to settle the question; the Commission had not been named, the time had gone by for the completion of the tribunal as first proposed, and this Government, thinking that it might be used as an element in the bringing about of a reciprocity treaty with the United States, deputed the Hon. George Brown to go to Washington. There the matter was discussed in connection with the proposed commercial treaty. That negotiation fell through, and immediately after this the Imperial Government named, at the instance of this Government, Sir A. T. Galt as Commissioner. Since then every effort had been made to induce the United States to complete the tribunal by naming their commissioner. The third commissioner was to be named by the Austrian Emperor through his Minister at London. Practically this Government could do no more than remonstrate with the Imperial Government, and the Imperial Government had remonstrated, but the United States were very slow to act in such matters. Whether the national honor of the United States had been tarnished by failing to carry out their treaty obligations was a matter for the rest of the world to decide. Every possible obstacle had been thrown by that country in the way of a settlement, and the Washington Treaty, as far as Canada was concerned, was not surrounded with such guards or such protection as would ensure this Dominion obtaining anything substantial under it. He was sorry that the honorable gentleman had made such unfavorable comments on the honorable Minister of Justice, as he considered his position and reputation in this country were too high to be open to any such remarks.

Honorable gentlemen—O! O! O!

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said he considered the papers before the House ought to satisfy everybody that the questions which the Minister of Justice had undertaken to discuss with the Colonial office had been discussed in a manner that could not be excelled. He did not think that the question of differential duties was one that the honorable Minister of Justice had been charged with at all in his mission. It was, of course, one of these subjects that was not committed to him nor did he believe that it was a proper thing that this country should seek to introduce differential duties against Great Britain.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—No one but yourself