

an extension of the *modus vivendi*. It is not approved of by our people, though of late many of the prejudices against it have been overcome. I hope by the end of another term some arrangements will be made to settle the disputed question.

HON. MR. POWER—I think the position of the affair is very unsatisfactory. The conduct of the Government in keeping an important Bill like this back to this stage of the session, and then asking us to railroad it through in this fashion, is anything but fair. The Government have known for some months that they would have to pass a measure of this kind, and I do not know why they should have held it until this stage of the session except it is that they have been waiting for the result of those negotiations to which the leader of the House has referred. When we consider the fact that our vessels that were seized four years ago have not been paid for yet, and our people have received no compensation whatever for their practical exclusion from fisheries in which they had a perfect right to participate for all those years, I do not think that this haste of ours to meet the views of our neighbors is very dignified. We ought to treat them with a little of the same consideration that they show to us.

HON. MR. PROWSE—Retaliation.

HON. MR. POWER—Yes retaliation. For four years they have kept our fishermen out of waters that they had as perfect a right to go into as any American fishermen. It is a case in which the Americans have not, as a matter of international law, a leg to stand on, and here we have been for months apparently getting them to admit a thing that is as plain as that two and two make four; and because they have not done that the Government ask us to hurry this measure through, for fear the Americans might feel a little bit irritated. I believe in peace and harmony, and give and take; but I do not think it should be all give on one side and all take on the other, and that is the way it has been with our negotiations with the United States.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I presume the Government are doing the very best they can in this matter. They must be better informed than members of this House, and the presumption must be in

their favor. With regard to granting this *modus vivendi*, if it is to be granted at all now is the time to grant it. We are aware from recent events in Newfoundland on the bait question that it is a matter of great importance, and if the Government desire to put this measure through there must be some good cause which, for State reasons, cannot be explained to the House. Therefore, I am prepared to accept it.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—For my part, I do not believe in the efficacy of retaliation between two nations. It seems to me that the nation which practises retaliation must have a very bad case of its own, or understand the art of diplomacy in a very imperfect manner. Possibly, the Government might have brought this matter forward a little earlier, but we shall only be showing that we appreciate the tendency now displayed at last in the United States to extend to us once more the right hand of fellowship, and for my part I shall be very glad to accept that right hand so held out; but I do not think it would be expedient to raise any objections to this Bill, on the plea that it has been so long coming, and that the Government were acting in an undignified way in calling our attention to it and asking us to go a little out of the ordinary course to pass it at once. As to the terms of the *modus vivendi*, all I can say is, I know that terms very similar to that were actually in existence in Prince Edward Island at a time when Canada was practicing the retaliation policy. Canada at that time thought that the only way of obtaining reciprocity from the United States was to retaliate, to exclude them from the fisheries and to do everything they possibly could to annoy them, but at that time Prince Edward Island controlled the fisheries on her own coasts, and her policy was entirely different. It was very similar to this policy of the *modus vivendi*, only there was nothing to pay in it.

We had no licenses that year; we allowed the transshipment of cargoes, the obtaining of bait and all other privileges which they had been accustomed to enjoy under the old reciprocity treaty, and we found that it not only benefited the Americans but it benefited our own people. We were on the most peaceable terms with them, and we were sorry indeed that such an arrangement should be interrupted by action from