

but this was supposed at the time to have been an assertion made for effect. It seems now to be admitted that the Americans have to some extent succeeded in hiving the mackerel in United States waters, which they have succeeded in doing by obtaining bait in large quantities in the Canadian markets and depositing it in their own waters. We presume that our Minister of Marine and Fisheries is well acquainted with the state of the question, and that all the necessary steps will be taken to promote the interests of the Maritime Provinces. If the information that we have obtained should prove correct, we should fear that it will be found impossible to prevent injury occurring to our fishery interests on the cessation of the treaty. We observe that the *Globe* suggests that the Maritime Province members should join in demanding of the Dominion Government immediate action with a view to providing for the future. We are not enlightened as to the nature of the action to be taken. It is said that "steps ought to be taken at once to prevent any injury occurring to the fishery interests on the cessation of the existing arrangement." If the mackerel, which are a migratory fish, should abandon Canadian waters for those of the United States, we should fear that no action of the Government would be of much use. On the other hand it may be found that the Canadian fishermen will be relieved from the competition of the Americans, and from the risk of collision, which will of course be much greater after the expiration of the treaty. It seems quite incredible that the fish will entirely desert Canadian waters, where alone the bait is to be obtained.

QUEBEC FINANCES.

It has been well observed by the *Montreal Herald* that the Quebec Government has but three courses open to it, viz.: "Retrenchment, taxation or repudiation." Mr. Robertson, the ex-Treasurer, has made a tremendous onslaught on the Treasurer's financial statement, as has Mr. Stephens. Mr. Robertson is to a certain extent in accord with the Ministry and the Opposition. He is in favor of a raid on the Dominion treasury, but he prefers to an increased subsidy a specific claim on the ground that a portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway is in Ontario territory, and yet constructed with Dominion funds. We have no doubt that the Ontario Treasurer would contend that the expenditure in this Province on the Canadian Pacific was considerably less

than that on the Intercolonial in the Province of Quebec. Moreover, if Quebec has any claim on the ground urged by Mr. Robertson, it is clear that the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have a similar one. The ex-Treasurer has taken a position that is indefensible. The Dominion Parliament must determine what are Dominion as contradistinguished from Provincial works, and it would be a fatal blunder to revert to the system, which was but too frequently adopted prior to Confederation, of expending public money in one Province to countervail an expenditure in another. The Dominion expenditure on the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Province of Ontario was necessary in order to establish a connection with the Dominion railway system, and was at least as much for the benefit of Quebec as for Ontario. The people of Ontario would, we have no doubt, contend that it was much more in the interest of Quebec; in fact, Ontario will have to expend capital to connect with the Pacific line. We confess that we have no expectation whatever that the demand made in such peremptory terms on the Dominion treasury will be successful, although the fact that it has been made seems to warrant the assumption that it must have been encouraged by the Quebec members of the Dominion Government. We of course do not allow ourselves to suppose for a moment that any member of the Quebec Legislature would venture even to suggest the idea of repudiation, and we fear very much that substantial retrenchment will have few advocates, even among the members of the Opposition. The only alternative left is direct taxation, and we have drawn an incorrect inference from the speech of the Hon. Mr. Lynch if it was not intended as an appeal to the members on both sides of the House to co-operate in the support of measures to place the Provincial finances on a sound basis.

THE BRAZIL TRADE.

It will most assuredly not be the fault of the energetic Consul for Brazil if trade be not extended between that country and Canada. We notice that a large deputation, headed by Dr. Fortin, who was accompanied by about twenty other Members of Parliament, representing all the Provinces, including Mr. Curran, Q.C., of Montreal, had an interview recently with the Minister of Finance, with reference to the promotion of trade between Canada and Brazil. Sir Leonard Tilley moreover assured the deputation that

"he was perfectly in harmony with the object of the deputation," and that "for the past five years the Government had lost no opportunity to further the same object." If this be correct, then the Mackenzie Government must have been likewise in harmony with the object of the deputation which, so far as we can gather from Dr. Fortin's statement, is to obtain some preference in the Brazilian market, for Canadian exports, and "in compensation" to admit into our market, "now that we have a surplus their 'molasses and coarse grades of sugar.'" Dr. Fortin said nothing about admitting "the molasses and coarse grades of sugar" of the British or Spanish West Indies, and it is therefore to be inferred that he does not contemplate the total abolition of the sugar duties which produce over \$2,500,000 of revenue.

We should doubt much, judging from his opening remarks, whether Dr. Fortin has ever examined the report of the West Indian commission or the correspondence with the Imperial Government on the subject. He is under the impression that, owing to confederation having taken place, the subject was lost sight of. The fact is that the commissioners obtained all the information that could be of any use, and Canada has recently subsidized a line of steamers, although there are at least grave doubts as to the practicability of enlarging her trade with Brazil. Dr. Fortin must be aware that there are no discriminating duties against Canada in Brazil, and that we already supply that market with codfish and lumber, which we ought to be able to furnish as cheaply as any other country. As to coal there was at the time of the visit of the commissioners no duty on that article. There are data by which we can judge of the probability of a large extension of our trade with South America. In the import statement in the report the aggregate amount of imports was about \$61,000,000, of which Great Britain and her possessions contributed \$32,419,085 and the United States \$3,129,742, France \$11,555,206. The imports from Canada were then \$6,493 and are now about \$500,000. The question of real importance is as to the meaning of the deputation and of the Minister of Finance. There is no obstruction whatever to trade with Brazil, and a preference has been given to it over the British Colonies by the establishment of a line of steamships. What, then, is the object? Is it proposed, in perfect harmony with Sir Leonard Tilley's views, to give Brazilian sugars a preference over those of the British Colonies in Canada? The chief exports from Brazil in which we have any