

considerations. The past history of England was a guarantee that none of our rights would be abandoned. The course she had pursued since the whole question had come before her was sufficient to prove to us how anxious she is to subserve our welfare. Not only did she accept our proposition respecting the Commission, but she placed on it the foremost public man in Canada. In this way, she gave Canada a position which no other colony ever before occupied. In the first time in the history of England, she had given a Canadian and colonial statesman a share in the settlement of Imperial questions. Not only would a Canadian statesman be present to watch over our interests, but Lord Granville had stated in the House of Lords that the Commission could not take any final action—that the refusal of any one member to concur would put an end to it. No one could assert that a public man of the high standing of the Premier of Canada would sacrifice our rights, or give them up without some adequate compensation. If the United States showed any disposition to enter into a fair commercial arrangement, he was satisfied that Canada would be willing to meet them half way. As respects the question of the headlands, it was more a matter of law than of arrangement. As to the international law sanctioning our claims, there could be no doubt in the mind of any intelligent man. In conclusion, he must refer to the interest now taken in the fisheries by the people of Ontario as well as by those of Quebec. A short while since there was little knowledge in the west of the great resources of the Maritime Provinces, but now, as a representative of that section, he was gratified to see how identified western men had become with the welfare and prosperity of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It was also due to the commanders of the Canadian Marine Force—especially Captain Scott and Captain Lavoie, who respectively directed the operations of the two divisions of our cruisers—that he should speak of the energy and discretion with which they had performed the delicate and responsible duties entrusted to them in the course of the past season. It had already been intimated in another place that the same means of protecting our interests would be pursued as had been so successful last season.

Hon. Mr. Dickey said that as a representative of one of the Maritime Provinces, with a coast line of 1,000 miles, he could not allow the present opportunity to pass without making a few remarks. He was glad to receive so strong an assurance from the Minister of Marine, that our rights in these inestimable treasures of the sea would be kept inviolate and intact. On one point, however, he wished information, and that was, the necessity for submitting the question at all to a Commission. He did not speak with a view of finding fault with the course pursued in the matter; it was perhaps

de l'Empire. Il ne s'agira pas de la simple présence d'un homme d'État canadien qui veillera sur nos intérêts, car Lord Grenville a déclaré à la Chambre des lords qu'aucune mesure concluante ne sera prise par la commission que le refus d'assentiment de l'un de ses membres y mettrait fin. Personne n'osera dire qu'un homme public aussi distingué que le premier ministre du Canada sacrifiera nos droits, ni qu'il abandonnera ces derniers sans avoir reçu une compensation suffisante. Si les États-Unis se montrent le moins disposés à conclure des accords commerciaux raisonnables, il est certain que le Canada sera disposé à faire des concessions. Quant au problème des caps, il s'agit davantage d'une question de droit que d'entente. Nul être intelligent ne peut douter que le droit international sanctionne nos revendications. Pour conclure, il doit faire allusion à l'intérêt que portent aux Pêcheries la population de l'Ontario et celle du Québec. Il n'y a pas longtemps, l'Ouest connaissait peu les immenses ressources des provinces Maritimes; maintenant, en tant que représentant de celles-ci, il se réjouit de constater combien les habitants de l'Ouest sont devenus attentifs au bien-être et à la prospérité de la Nouvelle-Écosse et du Nouveau-Brunswick. Il faut ajouter que les commandants des forces navales canadiennes—surtout les capitaines Scott et Lavoie, qui dirigeaient respectivement les opérations de nos deux divisions de garde-côtes—sont dignes d'éloge, étant donné l'énergie et la discrétion dont ils ont fait preuve dans l'exercice de leur haute responsabilité, au cours de la dernière saison. On a déjà laissé entendre ailleurs que les moyens qui serviront à protéger nos intérêts seront les mêmes que ceux qui ont remporté un si grand succès la saison dernière.

L'honorable M. Dickey déclare qu'à titre de représentant de l'une des provinces Maritimes, dont la côte mesure 1,000 milles, il se doit de saisir cette occasion de faire quelques commentaires. Il est heureux de recevoir, de la part du ministre de la Marine, une assurance si ferme que nos droits à ces trésors inestimables de la mer demeureront intacts. Il désire cependant recevoir des renseignements sur un point précis, à savoir s'il est nécessaire de soumettre la question à une commission. Il n'a pas l'intention de critiquer la décision qui a déjà été prise; il s'agit peut-être de la meilleure solu-