

Now to-day we have had the leader of the Opposition in this House arising in his place and disavowing his intention of moving an amendment to the second reading of the bill, and under these circumstances I feel the want of that stimulus which a fierce opposition to the measure would give me. Still, unable as I am to find new ideas to absorb, I feel obliged to follow the example of hon. gentlemen and say a few words with the view of incorporating my name on the roll of honor of those who vote for the Treaty. I must ask the indulgence of the House. I ask you to strain your generosity to the utmost, for the question has been so thoroughly discussed from the time that the master hand in another branch ushered it into birth that there is hardly a particle of a new idea left for me to evolve. But here I must let you in to a secret. I confess that I have not heard all that has been said on the subject from the point of view that I occupied in the Senator's Gallery; for there are certain attractions sometimes in that place which are sadly apt to distract one's attention from the question of fish and fish oil. If I should then tread upon ground that has already been trodden, do not think that I am an intruder—a trespasser—for I do it unconsciously. I have been immensely amused at the attitude assumed in reference to the Treaty by the gentleman who monopolizes, directs, controls all the political machinery of the Opposition through the newspaper he owns; if I remember aright, he was only a short while ago in the Government himself, and left it because the Administration would not obtain Reciprocity. Now, when for the first time in the history of the British nation, a Colonist has been taken into the councils of the country, and permitted to direct Imperial interests—when we are through his instrumentality to obtain a certain amount of reciprocity, we find this same Mr. Brown assailing this able and astute Minister, who has achieved so much for the Dominion. It has been said that Colonial interests have been invariably sacrificed whenever Treaties have been arranged between Great Britain and the United States. It may be that Mr. Osborne sacrificed the interests of this country, and when told of his error, consecrated it simply by a tear; it may be that Ashburton sold some of our territory to Maine and made a bargain which would put money in his purse. Here, however, at last we have a Treaty which confers decided advantages on Canada; and that it is so, is because we had on the Commission one who was able to guard

our interests, and that was our Premier. I am suffering from a mental debility in consequence of the want of vigour displayed by the leader of the Opposition this afternoon. He said so little that I can take hold of, that I am really at a loss for new arguments to present to the House. I deny that we are called upon to make any sacrifice in accepting this Treaty. I only wish it was a sacrifice so that we might place on record our willingness to make any sacrifices for the sake of the glorious Empire to which we belong. Among the points that have been touched in the discussion of this question is British connection. I am among those who believe that the best minds of England are in favor of assuming a position that will prove that she is desirous of drawing closer and closer the ties that now bind together the British Empire. I believe that this country with its magnificent extent of territory and its invaluable resources has a great future before it, if we are only true to our best interests and preserve that connection which has been so beneficial to us in the past and must strengthen and assist us so materially in the career of prosperity upon which we have now entered.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN—I have no doubt that the House will be very much inclined to think that we have already heard so much on the Treaty that any lengthy speeches in this branch of the Legislature will now be superfluous. I am not anxious to define my own position, but there is a natural feeling on the part of anyone who is here in a representative capacity to state for the information of those whom he represents, the reasons that influence him to vote for a measure on which there may be considerable diversity of opinion. I desire very heartily to vote for this measure, because I consider that it tends towards establishing friendly relations between two great nations—between the Great Empire to which we belong and the Great Republic on our borders. The hon. member for Grandville stated to the House that he saw no force in an argument of that kind, because it was not plain to him that if the House rejected that portion of the Treaty referring to the fisheries it would interfere with the relations between the two countries in question. No one supposes that if the Legislature threw out the Bill there would be war immediately; but all of us must feel that so long as there are subjects of dispute to cause soreness of feeling between these great nations there is danger of hostilities arising between them. Therefore if it is in our power to do anything