

May 14, 1872

Lord Kimberley, would show the position in which that Island stood, as follows:—"It is stated in the minute that the different Governments and Legislatures of this Colony have always hoped that these fisheries (the fisheries of Prince Edward Island) would have done much to secure the advantages of another Reciprocity Treaty, or of some tariff concessions authorize the free admission into the United States of the products of our agriculturists, who form the majority of our population, and which would have resulted in promoting the prosperity of the Colony; and that, in the opinion of this Council, the inhabitants of Prince Edward Island are now asked to surrender to the citizens of the United States these invaluable fisheries without receiving in return any just or fair equivalent, such as was hoped to be obtained."

The people of New Brunswick from the first had been entirely opposed to the Treaty, and the Legislature of that Province, as well as the Lieut. Governor, had spoken of it in the strongest terms of denunciation. (*Hear, hear.*) The people of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland did not accept the Treaty in the spirit in which this House was asked to accept it. (*Hear, hear.*)

Under those circumstances he felt as a representative of Nova Scotia, that, however anxious he might be for the establishment of reciprocal trade relations with the States on fair terms, he was not willing to give the United States everything that we had to offer as an inducement for reciprocity. If we gave them permission to fish in our waters

we put them in competition with our own fishermen, and reduced the value of the fish. He stood here not to represent one country or one province, but the whole interests of the Dominion, (*Hear, hear*) and in that capacity he would feel it his duty to vote against the ratification of the treaty. (*Applause.*) He denied that this treaty was calculated to settle all disputes between Great Britain and the United States, and he said that, if trouble arose at the present time between England and America, the latter would not ratify the treaty, and if we pressed it we would receive a snubbing for our pains. In the interest of the Dominion, and in the interest of all its products, he considered it would not be for our advantage to ratify the treaty at the present time. (*Applause.*)

Mr. KILLAM would vote for the fishery clauses of the Treaty; and thought that a majority of the representatives of Nova Scotia would favour its ratification as the best means of securing peace between the two countries.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON moved the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD would not oppose the motion, coming as it did from so distinguished a member of the House as the hon. member for Châteauguay; but he hoped that the debate, which had now lasted some days, would terminate tomorrow, and wished that it should stand first on the orders of the day.

The House adjourned at 11.50.