

from the Atlantic to the Pacific. For nearly four thousand miles this mutual repulsion is set up. That it is costly to each nation is evident; that it can be entirely effective is impossible. And as the population on each side of the boundary increases, and especially as trade centres grow up in the vast region west of the great Lakes, it will become a task beyond the ability of either government to effectually guard the line.

In addition to these permanent reasons, a special one of great force and urgency presents itself. This is the necessity of settling the Fisheries Question. If peace between the two countries is to be preserved,—as certainly we all desire it shall be,—the complications of the fisheries business must be adjusted. It is conceded that, since the right of fishing was partitioned, a century ago, when by the treaty of 1783, the United States ceased to be in the same political community with Canada, no arrangement of the separate use of the right has been either lasting or satisfactory. The history of the whole business is one of continual dispute, coming at last to the present dead-lock of diplomacy. But Commercial Union will dispose of the Fisheries quarrel, finally and conclusively. If we reëstablish a common relationship to the fishing grounds for the fishermen of both countries, the difficulty will be solved, and the solution will be as simple and peaceful as it is just and permanent. Moreover, the evidence thus afforded of the value of Commercial Union reaches much farther than to the one case. What it will do for our present controversy over the Fisheries it will do as well for other causes of controversy. It will compose the difficulties that are in existence, and it will obviate those that, under our present system of unfriendly interests, are certain to develop. If it effected but the one result it would be a most desirable measure; its promise of effecting all results of the like nature makes it worth our most energetic endeavor.

That the proposal of Commercial Union must be appreciated in Canada, it is easy to see. The natural separation of the Dominion provinces into groups, and the difficulty of