

ities are in the habit of doing. They are all very well for the subjects of the Czar, but will not be submitted to by countries possessed of constitutional government, energetic seamen and pioneers of commerce and fishing and fur-trading. Amongst the most prominent nations of those days were the British people and the United States. It is not necessary for me to refer to the course Great Britain had taken for some years preceding 1820 with regard to the emancipation of Europe generally, but it is quite in place that a nation having taken that stand in Europe should object strongly to the terms of that Russian Ukase. Accordingly, we find that about the year 1825 an Ambassador was sent to Russia, partly with the object of arranging terms upon which Russia should stand with the rest of the world as regards Behring Sea, and also to strike a boundary line between the Russian territory of Alaska and that of the North-West Territories, then in the hands of the Hudson Bay Company. That line was drawn. I saw it to-day myself in a map in one of the committee rooms of this House—a map of American issue. There it stands this day. But that was not the sole object of the visit of that Embassy. The Ambassador was instructed to express the dissent of Great Britain to the extraordinary and unusual demand which Russia made upon all the world which frequented Behring Sea. He did so, and before leaving St. Petersburg the Russians had practically resigned all their extraordinary and unusual claims to those waters. The United States were not behind us. The hon. gentleman who seconded the Address gave them full credit for their promptitude and courage—a young nation in those days—in resisting, very properly too, such pretensions as Russia put forward in Behring Sea; but the strangest part of the whole history is, that that very nation which was so unwilling to submit to Russian pretensions is now attempting to urge the very same thing against this young country living on her borders. I do not know that any gentleman in this House is more impressed with the importance of preserving peace between Canada and the United States, and Great Britain and the United States, than myself. I cannot conceive anything which would be more disastrous to the three countries concerned than a war upon some trivial question of

that kind, which really has no foundation whatever. Yet, we have found a great reluctance on the part of the authorities of the United States to admit themselves in any degree in the wrong on this question. I have, in reading over papers submitted to Parliament on the subject, found an occasional reference to what has been passing between the Governments of Canada and Great Britain and the Government of the United States upon this subject, and I observe that in the commencement of this correspondence the United States urge that the transactions occurred in a very remote country, were still before their courts, and that they could not, as yet, give the British Government any satisfaction upon them. But the time for excuses of that sort has long since passed by, and we are fairly, as a colony of Great Britain, entitled to something precise and definite upon this question. Either the United States has to abandon her claim to exclusive jurisdiction in Behring Sea, or we are to know that fact and govern ourselves accordingly. I certainly entertain the hope, which I am glad to find the Government and Her Majesty's representative entertain also, that these unfortunate circumstances are now in a fair way to be arranged and settled. But it is quite necessary, I think, that an emphatic opinion should be expressed by members of this Legislature as to the importance of having a final and definite settlement of the question.

I listened with pleasure to the observations of the hon. mover of this Address, and concurred with his views in regard to the importance of furthering the co-operation of labor. I consider myself that unless liberty on that question is fully allowed to the laboring classes that we live in constant danger. That is the remedy against such outbreaks as continental Europe has seen many times in the course of this century. In England they have been of less importance, because more liberty is allowed to all classes there. I have observed, by reference to the public prints in England, that sometimes when the laboring classes of that country meet the laboring classes of the continent and compare notes that the English find they enjoy a greater proportion of true liberty than the French. A French meeting of workmen before it convenes must receive the