

was also amicably settled. They did not get fifty-four-forty, nor did they fight.

The American Civil War again brought the question of lake defences to the fore.

The Confederates were reported to have secured some ships which were passing up and down the lakes, flying the British flag, with the intention of engaging in depredations upon the coastal towns and cities of the Union. As soon as the matter was brought to the notice of the Canadian authorities, prompt action was taken by Lord Monck. This, however, did not prevent an agitation in Congress for the abrogation of the Rush-Bagot Agreement, the idea being that with this Agreement out of the way the United States could undertake the immediate construction of a number of war ships. A resolution was introduced by Mr. Spalding, on June 13th, 1864, which was passed on June 18th. The preamble is worth reproduction. It reads: "Whereas the treaty of eighteen hundred and seventeen, as to the naval force upon the lakes, was designed as a temporary arrangement only, and although equal and just at the time it was made, has become greatly unequal through the construction by Great Britain of sundry ship canals; and whereas the vast interests of commerce upon the northwestern lakes, and the security of cities and towns situated on the American borders, manifestly require the establishment of one or more navy yards wherein ships may be fitted and prepared for naval warfare; and whereas the United States Government, unlike that of Great Britain, is destitute of ship canals for the transmission of gunboats from the Atlantic Ocean to the western lakes."

The upshot of these debates was that the Agreement of 1817 was finally abrogated by Congress in February, 1865, although prior to this date the necessary six months' notice had been given to the British Government. This action did not appear to be displeasing to Canada, for on March 2nd, 1865, Mr. Haultain, speaking in our House of Parliament, said:

"I am glad to see that the American Government have given notice of their intention to terminate the convention for not keeping armed vessels on the lakes. I am glad to see that this is to be put an end to, for it was decidedly prejudicial to our interests, and I have no doubt we shall have gunboats on our lakes before the end of the present year. There is no question that should they determine upon going to war with us before the opening of navigation, we might not be able to get a British gunboat on our waters by the St. Lawrence canals, as they are so easily accessible to our opponents, and, without much difficulty, could be rendered useless for navigation."

It was evident that something was needed to combat the feeling that the United States had hostile designs against Canada. Lord Russell suggested that it was time to think of something to take the place of the agreement of 1817 before it should be terminated by the notice already given. Mr. Adams, the American Minister in London, agreed that arma-