

REPORT

ON THE RELATIONS OF

CANADA WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Four questions naturally come up when the subject of the relations of Canada with the United States is under consideration.

These are: 1st, the Atlantic fisheries question; 2nd, the Behring's Sea question; 3rd, the boundaries between the Territory of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia; and, 4th, the commercial relations of Canada with the United States.

I propose discussing two of these—the last fully and the first incidentally only so far as it is intimately associated with the fourth.

The earliest relations existing between the British North American Provinces and that portion of the Continent now known as the United States of America were amicable and friendly. That condition of affairs was broken up by the secession of the thirteen colonies, which subsequently formed the nucleus of the present United States of North America.

During the war with the mother country which followed the secession, the authorities in the seceding portion made great efforts to induce the people of the portion remaining true to their allegiance to Great Britain, to cast in their lot with them. These attentions began at an early period. Letters and addresses were sent, before independence was achieved, urging the people of the other British colonies to join the seceding colonies. In October, 1774, letters inviting co-operation were despatched to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and in the same month an address was sent to the people of Quebec inviting them to send delegates to Congress.

In May, 1775, an address to the people of Canada was distributed in which it was stated that “hopes are yet entertained that Canada will unite with the Confederacy in the defence of the common liberty.”

In June, 1775, instructions were given to General Schuyler to take command at Crown Point and Ticonderoga, “and, if he finds it practicable and not disagreeable to the Canadians, to take possession of St. Johns, Quebec, Montreal and other ports of Canada.”

In November, 1775, a committee of three—Messrs. R. Livingston, R. P. Payne and J. Langton—was instructed to advise with Generals Montgomery and Schuyler, and to “use their utmost exertions to induce Canadians to accede to a union with the United States.”

In the spring of 1776, Commissioners were again appointed—Dr. Franklin, Samuel Chase and J. Carroll—to “form a union if possible with Canada, to establish a free press, to expend not exceeding \$100,000 for fortifications and to commission a battalion of troops.” Neither the promise of a newspaper, the expenditure of money, nor the appeal to martial glory produced the hoped-for result. Then efforts were made