

pleasure was heightened by the fact that those political exigencies and state considerations which sometimes compel exalted personages to give their hands without their heart, in this case happily coincided with the love and affections of the two young hearts, and that this was to be a union of both hands and hearts. But the joy we felt in this country was too soon turned to sadness, for the news all too soon was flashed across the water, that the worthy young Prince was stretched on a bed of sickness. We remember, too, how we waited anxiously from day to day for further news, hoping against hope, dreading the possibility of a loss which too soon occurred. In a short time afterwards the news was flashed across the Atlantic that the Duke of Clarence and Avondale was no more. Sir, I am sure that this House, and the people of this country, who mourned with those thus called to mourn, will readily endorse the steps that have been taken to convey to the bereaved relatives the sympathy of this House and of the people of Canada. I am sure, too, there was no heart in Canada, young or old, rich or poor, high or low, that did not send out its sympathy and tender its condolence not only to the bereaved family but to the unfortunate Princess, whose cup of happiness was so suddenly dashed from her lips, and who was so soon precipitated from the heights of bliss to the depths of woe. We are also informed that negotiations have been carried on with respect to the seal fishing in the Behring Sea, and that they are being continued with a view to the adjustment of the various difficulties that have arisen between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States. The difficulties, as this House is aware, continued for several years, and although I believe the members of this House and the people of this country feel, and the people of the Republic south of us feel, that the day has gone by for the two great English-speaking peoples of the world to go so far, and to so forget what is due to themselves and civilization, as to plunge into war, still, from time to time, clouds did appear on the horizon, and it was not at times impossible that the outcome of the difficulties might lead to war. But we are pleased to see that these difficulties are in a fair way of adjustment. Commissioners have been appointed to look into the matter, commissioners not only representing this country and the United States, but France and Norway, I believe, and other countries interested in the matter. I believe this House has confidence that the outcome of these negotiations will be such as to remove for ever any danger of conflict between the two countries. The people of the lower provinces and eastern Canada generally, have but little idea of the value and importance of the seal fisheries to our kinsmen in the west; but, Sir, I find from statistics of the year 1891, that from fifty to sixty vessels were fitted out, carrying on an average from twenty to twenty-five men, and sailed from the ports of British Columbia in order to engage in the seal fisheries. I think it may be proper to refer here to the time when the action taken by the American Government caused a feeling of indignation to run through this country at the idea that our fishermen were being interfered with in what were considered to be the proper exercise of their rights, and then was given an unmistakable proof of the new national feeling which is spreading throughout the length and breadth of the country, for we felt that it was not British Columbia that had been injured, but all the

MR. NORTHROP.

people of Canada, from whatever province they came, or to whatever party they belonged, felt an injury had been done to Canadians. His Excellency has also informed the House respecting a commission of three Ministers who met at Washington to discuss with the authorities of the American Government certain questions in an informal way. On referring to the questions mentioned in the Address we find there are several. The first, I observe, is as to the establishment of the boundaries of Alaska. Probably at the present time it may seem a matter of little importance that the boundaries of Alaska should be ascertained and settled. Such was the idea in regard to the settlement of the boundaries of Maine. Now we know how much more care would be exercised were the question again to arise. I am sure the House would feel that the Government have taken time by the forelock in endeavouring to procure a settlement of the boundaries between Alaska and British Columbia, before international complications of a serious character might arise. There is in British Columbia a country rich in mineral wealth, and every day the question is deferred the greater is the danger; and I am sure the House will rejoice that at last means have been taken between the Government of this country and the Government of the United States amicably to settle this question. Another question that has agitated the minds of the people of the maritime portions of Ontario, as well as the people of other parts of the province, is the question of reciprocity in wrecking and salvage. We all know that the existing state of the law has for years been a burden to the vessel owners and a disgrace to the nineteenth century. It appears almost incredible that a vessel should be wrecked, and although men were prepared and were willing and ready to save the cargo, the property should be allowed to be lost before the very eyes of those people simply on account of the present state of international law, which prevented them interfering, because they did not happen to belong to the right nationality. The question has been referred to a commission and it is expected that a satisfactory arrangement will soon be entered into, the American Government having at last conceded the point contended for by our Government, and at the same time the question of towing and customs should be settled as well. Arrangements, we are informed, have been entered into for the appointment of an international commission to report on various questions as to the fisheries. Questions have arisen between the two countries owing to waters lying between them. For years our close season in Canadian waters has been rigidly observed. The Government has done all in its power to preserve the fish for the fishermen; but to a great extent their efforts have been neutralized by the fact that certain waters and rivers lie partially in the United States and partially in the Dominion, and our regulations have no effect over the American fishermen. So it occurred that while on the one side our fishermen were hampered by these regulations, suitable and proper enough for the preservation of the fish, their effect was absolutely destroyed because the Americans fished almost without restriction. Within certain quarters, for example, on St. John River, there are strict regulations with respect to the pollution of the streams by the saw-mills; but no such regulations prevail on the other side of the line. In regard to the