

who will reason on these matters the scheming politicians will have no chance of success, while the blandishments of the doctrinaires are completely thrown away, as any change in their political condition must result from their own convictions. The whole of this subject has been carefully considered by our people without excitement or prejudice. No greater national calamity is feared than a separation from Great Britain, but the firm and unalterable resolution is that if the Parent State forces that conclusion the people of Canada will be the arbiters of their own destiny, and that will be tried under a Constitutional Monarchy.

The United States Government have transferred one-third of their *whole* fleet to the North American waters, ostensibly to protect American fishermen in the prosecution of their lawful business. The Imperial Government have also detached a small squadron, and the Government of the Dominion of Canada have commissioned six sailing schooners armed for the purpose of protecting the inshore Canadian fisheries from the depredations of those very individuals whom the United States is about to protect with a force of thirteen vessels of war. If either the Imperial or Dominion Government cared one straw for the demonstration it might be worth while asking what was meant by it, but having plenty of business of their own to attend to and feeling that the people at Washington are too busily engaged with every one else's affairs, it is not deemed worth the trouble of making the inquiry, especially as the force sent out will be obliged to run for the nearest port in the first gale, if some of them don't find their way to the bottom before making it.

The fisheries question has been ably and exhaustively handled by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Honorable P. Mitchell, in his admirable Report, on which the following comments by the *Toronto Telegraph* are so much to the point and in accordance with our own conclusions that they are given in full:

"We have already made some reference to the very able report of the Hon. Peter Mitchell, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, for the year ending June 30th, 1869; but the report deserves further notice at our hands. It is undoubtedly one of the best and most complete blue books we have had from any of the departments for a number of years. It is not a book of mere dry and uninteresting details; but contains statistics of great value, arranged in an excellent manner and showing fully the importance and extent of the great fisheries of the Dominion. Mr. Mitchell understands the subject thoroughly; has all the ins and outs of the Department under his control; and writes with the earnestness of a man who has at heart the duties of his office.

"We are glad to find that Mr. Mitchell—and in this, of course, he speaks for the Government—takes a very strong stand in favor of the protection of our fisheries. After referring to the failure of the license system, and after mentioning some of the many outrages committed by Americans on Canadian citizens, he says:

"Measures are now in course of adoption to prevent the continuance of these vexatious and illegal intrusions. The system of licensing foreign fishing vessels has been discontinued, and a force of marine police is now formed to protect our inshore fisheries, and to guard British fishermen against molestation. The cessation of a temporary system or policy on the part of the Government, is simply defensive. It has now become an imperative necessity either that foreigners should cease to enjoy the unrestricted use of fisheries exclusively ours, or else grant us some equivalent in trade for the concession of such important privileges. United States citizens cannot longer expect to avail themselves of access to Canadian waters without it. Above all, they need not hope to do so in future whilst upholding a commercial policy, which is studiously hostile to our interests generally, and particularly burdensome to the fishing interests of the Maritime Provinces."

"Mr. Mitchell then enters into an argument of the question, and shows that our position is a right and proper one, that we have the law of nations on our side that England has ever maintained her exclusive right to the inshore fisheries, and that she has never surrendered the right to the Americans or any one else. And then Mr. Mitchell concludes in the following words: 'The temporary and indulgent policy hitherto pursued will henceforth give place to a definite policy of exclusion, agreeable to Colonial interests, and consistent with national dignity and rights.'

"This is the only way of dealing with the question. The Americans have refused to pay the nominal license fee we demanded; they have closed their doors against us; and they have done everything in their power to injure our trade, and retard the prosperity of our country. We have received no favors from them; and, therefore, they certainly have no right to except any from us. The fisheries are ours, and they must remain ours. We alone have a right to say who shall use them; and, considering the treatment we have received of late at the hands of the Americans, we are not likely to grant them so great a privilege, even though Mr. Greeley's philosophic brain should lose its power for the want of the strengthening phosphorous of fish.

"The statistics given in the report are exceedingly interesting, and show clearly the value and importance of our fisheries. For Ontario the figures are not complete, but it is estimated that the lake and river fisheries in this Province yield about two hundred thousand dollars worth of fish, annually. This is likely to increase, as settlement extends along the shores of Lakes Huron and Superior.

"The fisheries above the city of Quebec are valued at \$100,000 per annum though full figures are not given. With respect to the fisheries below that point, and in the Maritime Provinces, complete details are furnished. In the Gulf and Lower St. Lawrence, during the year, 67 vessels were engaged, together with 1,805 small boats. The value of the fish taken is not given. The total number of men employed was 8,132. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence, 50 boats and 133 men were engaged. The yield was valued at \$125,951. At the Magdalen Islands, 52 vessels, chiefly American, were employed. The men employed numbered 263, and the value of the catch was \$25,882.

"On the shores of Nova Scotia are the great fishing grounds of the Dominion, and from that Province the figures are most complete. In 1869, there were engaged in those fisheries 635 vessels, having a total

tonnage of 21,656, and employing 17,557 men. The value of the fish taken was estimated at \$2,501,507. New Brunswick also makes a respectable exhibit. She had 38 vessels engaged, employing 1,991 men, and the catch was valued at \$638,576. Putting the figures together, we find that nearly twenty-eight thousand persons are employed in our fisheries, and that the total yield of last year was valued at about \$4,000,000. These figures, it is thought, will be nearly doubled this year under our new policy of excluding the Americans and confining the benefits to our people. We have in those fisheries an immense source of wealth; and, now that we know their value, we must be firm and determined in protecting them. We have been played upon long enough. We must now stand steadily by our rights; and secure to our people all the benefits and advantages which foreigners have so long enjoyed."

Whatever opinion the Imperial Executive may have of the friendship of the Washington Cabinet the Canadian people are not blinded to the fact of its aggressive character, and therefore are prepared to value all its acts as having a certain significance indicative of a defined and settled purpose. In this case it is to shew a preponderance of force on the fishing grounds, assist their own fishermen to plunder with impunity if they be allowed, and to prove to all Europe what a puissant power they are, as well as to impress them with respect for their naval prowess. And if the time should come that English politicians should endeavor to send Canada adrift the natural and easy inference would be that the United States, being the great power of the American continent, with a preponderating naval force in those seas, this country should be naturally annexed thereto. Such ideas and such a game is neither above or below the capacity of the Washington politicians. The President has been talking some nonsense lately about the Monroe doctrine, and that political fallacy of George Canning's will not have received its full development till the consummation indicated is arrived at—but there will be wanting the consent of the other party—the people of Canada; and on this point they are perfectly unanimous whatever their future political relations may be, annexation to the States will not be amongst them.

One or two of our leading journals (we are happy to say the only exceptions to the general rule) advocate the setting up of an independent government under the guarantee of England, France, and America. Such an idea is simply an insult to the people of Canada. They want no protectorate, do not wish to change their allegiance, but if they are compelled to do so they will tolerate no form of Government which would place a "tailor's prentice" at their head. In spite of the Monroe doctrine they will establish a constitutional monarchy similar to that of Great Britain, and as for their sovereign—he is amongst them.

The third son of the great and good Victoria will be the fitting head of the Canadian commonwealth, and under his rule the