

known in Great Britain and in our sister colonies, or anywhere throughout the world, the better it is for our people:

The natural resources of this country are great. All we require here is population, and we invite the people of the Old Country to come to British North America and enjoy with us this great inheritance of ours. All that we want is more brain, more muscle, strong arms and willing hearts to build up a strong British power on this continent.

We are pleased to know that negotiations are pending between the United States Government and the Government of Great Britain on the important question of the Fisheries. I trust that that question will be settled to the satisfaction of us all, and I cannot see for a moment why there should be any great difficulty about it. We demand our rights under the treaty of 1818, and in justice to the people of Canada, and for the honor of the nation, we cannot accept less. While reading the American press and reports of the speeches delivered by some of the representative men of the United States, one would fancy that Canadians were here on suffrage. We know that we are not here on suffrage, and all we want is our rights. We demand no more, and we can take no less. We know that we are here as part and parcel of the great Empire on which the sun never sets. When I speak of this I do not allude to it in any spirit of hostility. We are here alongside of the great Republic, with only an imaginary boundary line running for thousands of miles between us, and it is natural that we should have rivalry on both sides of the line, but let it be a rivalry in the arts of peace and not in the arts of war. Let it be a rivalry of the greatest comfort to the greatest number on either side of the line. That is the rivalry I want to see, and I know that when I express that sentiment I express the feelings of every true Canadian and also of every true American.

I am glad to know that the government of the country has proposed measures to defend our in-shore fisheries. I cannot for a moment think that the American Government want to take our property from us without giving

us an equivalent. They might as well encourage their citizens to take the cattle from our fields; the wheat from our granaries or the lumber from our forests without giving us an equivalent, as to take our fish, and I have not such an opinion of the Americans as to believe that when they come to consider the matter calmly and coolly that it will not be settled satisfactorily to all.

We are told that our attention will be called to the expediency of establishing a department of trade and commerce under the supervision of a responsible Minister. The trade and commerce of this country is assuming vast proportions. It is largely increasing year by year, and although I do not know that I fully understand all that is meant by this paragraph in the Speech, I know it is a very important subject. Such a department would have a responsible head in Parliament to answer the questions of the representatives of the people as to the trade and commerce of the country, and in this connection I might probably make a suggestion, and that is, that should difficulties take place between capital and labor as is sometimes the case where large amounts of labor and capital are involved, statistics should be laid before us in order to show whether labor is getting its fair share of what it should have, because capital and labor are the joint partners in producing wealth, and by having proper statistics laid before Parliament we should be able to decide what is right and just in such matters. No doubt this subject will be brought before us, and knowing that hon. gentlemen will give it due consideration I shall say no more about it at present.

His Excellency says :

"You will also be asked to consider the propriety of making such improvement in the organization of the Departments of Justice, Customs and Inland Revenues, as will provide greater facilities for the despatch of the large and increasing volume of business with which those Departments are charged."

There are some complaints in this country of departmental grievances particularly with respect to Customs charges, and I, for one, would like to see the subject have the same right of redress against the crown in every