

the Mother Country, would long since have been filched from us and which are to-day ours to use solely by reason of that power and influence, that we might use those fishery rights as a bribe to induce the United States to enter into such trading relations with us as would virtually exclude the Mother Country from our markets.

The proposal is horrible. It is unnatural. It is altogether too hideous and monstrous a thing to be born of this glorious, beauteous young Canada. She must, she will disown, she has disowned it.

But to return to what Mr. Mowat said : After stating that it was impossible to exaggerate the benefits that Canada had derived from British connection, that it had been for us unmixed good, Mr. Mowat went on to say that in his opinion and in the opinion of many of the people in Canada, it was quite impossible for the present state of things to be permanent. The people would sooner or later demand some voice, in Imperial affairs. (In this view of the situation Mr. Mowat is, I think, sustained by all the leading statesmen of England.) The difficulty was, Mr. Mowat said, to see how that could be arranged. He was not as sanguine as some as to the discovery of a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. But what, he asked, were statesmen for, if not to solve difficulties ? And for his own part he could say that no man was more anxious than he that this difficulty should be solved ; and he (Mr. Mowat) accordingly, on the 29th of July, 1884, the day to which I have already referred, seconded this most important resolution. " That for the purpose of enlightening and instructing the people, both in the United Kingdom and the colonies, as to the incalculable advantages which will accrue to the whole Empire from the adoption of such a system of political organizations, a society be formed of men of all parties, to advocate and support the principle of Federation."

The meeting in London to which I have referred, and at which Mr. Mowat spoke, was the conference held by leading men of all parties for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a Society to promote the cause of Imperial Federation ; the resolution which Mr. Mowat so gladly seconded was, as you see, the resolution by virtue of which the Imperial Federation League has its existence.

It is for the purpose of saying a few words to you about this principle of Federation of the Empire, thus advocated by Mr. Mowat,