

Hon. Mr. POWER—I presume there has been some change in that. I think in some respects the values have fallen and in other respects they have risen. I imagine that the value of wheat is probably less; on the other hand there are cheese and other things of that sort which have gone up, and I presume lumber must be worth more than it was at that time.

Now, the third paragraph of the Speech is as follows:—

It is a cause of thankfulness that our people have been spared in a very great degree from the sufferings which have visited the populations of some other countries during many months past, and that while the commercial depression prevailing abroad could not but affect the activity of business in the Dominion, we have been free from any extensive financial disaster or widespread distress.

That paragraph is put in a very becoming way; it is very guarded and modest in its wording and I do not think that any one could quarrel with it, but some of the speeches that have been made in relation to this paragraph are very much more exaggerated than the paragraph itself and are not justified by the existing circumstances. Any one who goes to the Lower Provinces, to Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, or even Nova Scotia, with all its varied resources, will not find that things are very flourishing. They might be worse, as the last speaker says, and I have no fault to find with the paragraph. In the hon. gentleman's own province, I understand there are in the city of Toronto some thousands of persons at the present time looking for work or for assistance from the city. If that had happened in the old regime to which he referred so often, I have no doubt we should have heard a good deal about it in this Chamber, but it has not been mentioned and I do not lay any special stress upon it.

The fourth paragraph of the Speech, the paragraph which deals with the Behring Sea award is one upon which I propose to say a few words. Unlike the paragraph of the Speech which deals with the tariff, this matter of the Behring Sea award has not to come before the House again, and for that reason I hope the House will bear with me if I deal with the matter at a little length. In the first place I might call attention to the fact that the wording is a little peculiar. It says:—

The peaceful conclusion, by the award of the arbitrators at Paris, of the controversy which had prevailed so long, with respect to the Seal Fisheries in the Pacific Ocean and the rights of British subjects in Behring Sea, has removed the only source of contention which existed between Great Britain and the United States with regard to Canada. There is every reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government will obtain redress for those Canadian subjects of Her Majesty who were deprived of their property and liberty without just cause while the controversy was in progress.

Now, it is a rather curious fact that we are told that a controversy existed with respect to the seal fisheries in the Pacific Ocean, and the rights of British subjects in Behring Sea. I have always understood that the controversy was with respect to the seal fisheries in Behring Sea, and the rights of British subjects in that connection, but here there appears to be distinction made between the Pacific Ocean and the Behring Sea, which I do not understand. Perhaps some hon. gentleman will explain it later on. If hon. gentlemen will carefully examine the language of this paragraph of the Speech, it will be found, I think, that there is no objection to it whatever. There is no word of boasting in the paragraph. I should not say much about it, only there has been some exultation indulged in by the friends of the Government with respect to this award of the Behring Sea arbitrators. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down, expresses his great gratification that every principle of international law—I do not know that he used that expression, but that was the gist of it—that every principle of international law, which had been contended for by Canada, had been upheld by the tribunal. Now, if we were told some day that the Dutch had taken Holland, we should not think that the Dutch had achieved anything remarkable. That is exactly what has been done in this case. If we were told that two and two made four, and that the Board of International Arbitrators had so decided, we should not be very much surprised, and this is really just about what this award has done. If we look at the award, which is not very long, we shall be satisfied on that point. The first point submitted to the arbitrators was:—

1. What exclusive jurisdiction in the sea now known as the Behring's Sea and what exclusive rights in the seal fisheries therein did Russia assert and exercise prior and up to the time of the cession of Alaska to the United States?