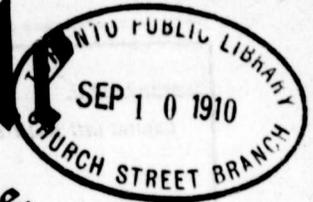


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## THE HAGUE JUDGMENT ON THE FISHERY QUESTION.

**F**OR British subjects to hail the judgment of the Hague Tribunal on the Atlantic Fisheries question as the first great triumph for the principle of international arbitration, sounds a little like shouting because we have won a big victory in the International Court of Arbitration. In ordinary cases, not involving questions of national honour or liberty, any kind of judgment by an arbitration court is preferable to the only alternative trial by the ordeal of war. It is cheaper, less wicked in its processes and not more unjust upon the whole in its results. But Great Britain has generally come out of these proceedings the loser and although it has taken its licking like a gentleman, has generally suffered from a feeling of rankling injustice.

It is rather hastily assumed that the judgment has made the century-long friction between Great Britain, Canada, Newfoundland, and the United States on the fishery question a thing of the past. Of this we are not so sure. Neither in sport, nor in international law is Uncle Sam a good loser; and if there is no appeal from the judgment he will probably find lots of room for squabbling over its application. The most important issue involved was whether the three marine miles of admittedly British waters must be measured from the coast line including all its sinuosities, or in the case of bays, creeks and harbours must be measured from an imaginary line drawn from headland to headland. The question to be settled is how much surface water does it take to make a bay. Which reminds us of the old conundrum: "How many calves' tails does it take to reach to the moon?" The answer was: "One, if it is long enough." Our esteemed Uncle would like a definition, not of universal application. He would have no difficulty in finding a definition of a bay good enough for a Canadian or Newfoundland bay; and no scruples about diplomatically insisting upon its acceptance; but if anybody attempts to apply that definition to Delaware Bay or Chesapeake Bay, there is going to be trouble; and our Uncle is prepared to use all the resources of diplomacy to prove that Delaware Bay is only a duck pond.

Another important issue decided by the tribunal is that the privilege and responsibility for making the laws and regulations necessary to preserve order in the British Atlantic fisheries appertains to the British colonial governments. Both decisions are grounded upon common sense and justice.

Upon five minor points the judgment is in favour of the United States. The American fishermen may employ foreigners in their crews; they are not called upon to comply with the requirements of local laws concerning entry or report at custom houses or to pay light or harbour dues; and they may enter certain bays for shelter, repairs, wood, or water, subject to whatever restrictions are necessary to prevent them taking, drying or curing fish therein. There will be no resentment among Canadians or Newfoundlanders on account of these awards to our friends. They are not unreasonable, and the judgment as a whole will impress the unprejudiced critic as being based upon sound principles of justice, rather than upon considerations of political or diplomatic expediency.

## PATRIOTISM RAMPANT.

**A**CCORDING to the Journal of the Medical Association, Chicago, only 131 people were actually butchered to make an American holiday on the glorious Fourth of July this year; although 2,923 suffered injuries. Nineteen were killed outright by firearms; eleven by explosions, six by cannon; sixty-seven died from tetanus and twenty-six, mostly little girls, were burned to death. This is said to be the best, that is to say, the lowest record since 1903, when the Journal commenced to keep tab on these patriotic festivities and when 4,449 were injured, 466 fatally. Well, the United States is a great country and cannot afford to celebrate its victories meanly. But it does strike foreigners as an odd idea, for sensible people like the Americans to express their patriotic jubilation by making their children pass through the fire to Moloch. Burning a couple of dozen little white girls to death just as though they were negroes and causing threescore patriots to die in all the horrors of lock jaw, looks more like an expression of remorse than of triumph. Perhaps when they have killed and maimed as many Americans as Englishmen were killed and maimed in the war of independence they will take a calmer view of the question. This, however, is a purely domestic matter with which foreigners have no right to interfere. If the victims and their friends don't mind the sacrifice who else has a right to criticize? It would be much more appropriate for the British people to celebrate the loss of the American colonies by human sacrifices; but, upon the whole we are rather glad they don't do it. The traditional