

Russia; and England also protested. The consequence was that the Treaties of 1824-25 were drawn up, when the Russians surrendered their claim. It will be worthy of notice that when Russia did claim that 100 mile limit, it did not advance it on the basis that it was a closed sea; but, at the same time, Mr. James Quincy Adams saw fit to draw Russia's attention to the fact that it had no valid claim on that basis. I, therefore, think that these facts will refute any argument which the Americans can bring forward on that point. Mr. Angell then asks: What is the definition of a closed sea? He cites a great many authorities, giving different distances between the headlands, but the conclusion arrived at by most of them he thinks is, that any sea where the entrance is sufficiently narrow to be easily defended by a naval power, is a closed sea. Now, the least distance between the points at the entrance to Behring Sea is 139 miles. The Straits of Gibraltar are a little under 9 miles wide, so I do not see that the Americans can lay claim to the Behring Sea being a closed sea; and Mr. Angell has come to that conclusion too. The other claim they bring forward is that, as all the seal-breeding grounds are on islands belonging to the United States, when the seals leave their breeding grounds and go to the high seas they are the property of the United States. Mr. Angell sets forward the fact that many ducks breed in the North-West Territories of Canada, and this being the case Canada has a right to declare that they should not be slaughtered elsewhere. Many opinions of other eminent men in the United States are given in some of their leading newspapers, showing that opinion is very much divided in that country as to whether the United States has any just claim or not. I must say that I firmly hope the Government will not let the matter rest, and that the sealers who have suffered so much may find that they can look to England for that protection which has always been given to her subjects. I observe, Sir, that it is the intention of the Government to send a Commission to Holland and Scotland to obtain information in respect to the catching and packing of fish. This undoubtedly will be of the greatest benefit to the country at large. I believe it will more particularly apply to the Atlantic coast, but it will also be productive of the greatest benefit to the Pacific coast, as at this time nothing but salmon are caught in very large quantities, while there are myriads of all kinds of fish that undoubtedly, if the proper men were engaged in the industry and if proper information were obtained, would be caught and packed, as is done in the case of salmon, and a large and profitable industry would thereby be established. Some time ago a salmon-canning deputation waited on the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries in regard to many matters which required attention in the Province of British Columbia, and I am glad to say that they were so fortunate as to obtain nearly every request they made, not because they intimidated the Minister in any way, but because they submitted only just demands. One request, however, they failed to obtain and that was a promise from the Minister that he would proceed to the coast and observe for himself our grand rivers and fisheries. If the hon. gentleman will give that promise and keep it, I will assure him a right hearty welcome, such as that obtained

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by his predecessor, and I feel satisfied that he will be abundantly rewarded for all the trouble and hardship of the trip by the information he will obtain as to the present condition of the fisheries of our Province. The next paragraph in the Address refers to the question of the rights of the Dominion in its foreshores, harbors, lakes and rivers. I am glad to observe that this question is receiving the attention of the Government. It has always been my opinion that these matters can be dealt with most effectually by the Local Government of the Province in which these foreshores and harbors are situated, and I think, in the long run, it will be found more satisfactory and economical, as the Local Government can obtain plans and witnesses on these subjects more easily than can the Dominion Government. I am glad to learn that the Report of the Royal Commission of Labor has been distributed to the country. That report shows without doubt that great abuses had existed, and that the relations between the employer and employé had in many cases not been such as should have prevailed. I think that every well-wisher of the working classes, and every one who has their welfare at heart, must feel that the Government has adopted a course that merits the sanction and approval of the country. We are also glad to learn that it is the intention of the Government to proceed with the Geological Survey. I feel certain that the revenue spent in this way will produce an adequate return from the East and the West in the fresh mineral resources that will be developed. In regard to the Province of British Columbia this is more especially true, for, while many shafts have been sunk in the more accessible regions, a large portion of the country remains undeveloped for lack of the services of intelligent men who understand geology. Before taking my seat I would ask hon. members, one and all, to travel over the national highway and visit the Province of British Columbia. Start at Halifax, where you will see the British flag floating over the forts; travel through the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and see the busy workshops filled with your own countrymen. Go over the plains and see the millions of acres that are awaiting settlement and are ready to grow grain for the whole world; go through the Province of British Columbia, whose mountains are covered with magnificent timber and are filled with precious metals of all kinds; pass down the Pacific coast to Esquimalt and see the British bulldogs lying there with the same old British flag floating at the peak as was seen at Halifax—and then tell me can any man possessing any national feeling be so craven or be so deficient in manhood as to hold up his hands in the cause of annexation? Sir, there is no more glorious Province in the world than British Columbia, as hon. gentlemen will say if they will visit it. No reading of books or hearing accounts from people who have visited it can give any adequate idea of its resources. Let hon. gentlemen go and see it for themselves. Sir, I have the honor to represent a city of the Pacific coast; my duty is to watch over the interests of that city while I am here, but my first duty I consider is to assist to maintain the Dominion as a whole. Let us all drop our sectionalism, and let us all strive together to maintain Canada as a great and grand country whose interests must be guarded by us and whose people are able to defend them-