

when the award was pronounced in September last, the tribunal, instead of proceeding to deal with these objections, made by the United States to existing Canadian and Newfoundland legislation, referred the whole of such legislation to a subordinate tribunal which the main tribunal then directed should be constituted, such subordinate tribunal to consist of one representative from the United States, one from Great Britain and one appointed by the tribunal. The government of the United States appointed as its representative, Dr. Smith, the leading official, I think, of their fisheries department; the government of Great Britain appointed Mr. Morison, the Attorney General of Newfoundland; and the tribunal itself appointed as the third member, Dr. Hoëk, professional adviser on the subject of fisheries of the government of the Netherlands. We were thus left in a position with regard to our existing Canadian legislation which was, to say the least, not a very satisfactory one. We had no representative from Canada upon this subordinate board which was to consider all of the Canadian legislation and regulations, and report to the main tribunal, leaving the parties, if dissatisfied with the conclusions of the subordinate board, to be heard before the main tribunal upon that tribunal reconvening at the Hague at some future time. For the reason that this disposition of the matter was not the one we had expected and which we thought we were entitled to by the stipulations of our agreement to arbitrate and not one which was in itself, satisfactory, it was thought that probably more could be accomplished by personal negotiation with representatives of the United States than by prolonging the litigation—more than could be hoped from any legal argument and examination in detail of the provisions before the subordinate board with a further appeal, if it should be necessary, to the principal tribunal; and because of the delay and the great expense which such a continuation of the litigation would necessarily involve, the course of amicable negotiation was very much preferred. Efforts were accordingly begun immediately after the announcing of the award in September last; and by correspondence through the foreign office of Great Britain, an arrangement was made for a conference at Washington on the 9th of January last, at which representatives of the parties interested might meet and discuss the whole subject. Accordingly that conference was held on Monday of last week, at which there were present on the part of the United States government its Secretary of State, Mr. Knox, with his counsellor or assistant, Mr. Chandler Anderson, who had been the agent for the United States in the proceedings before the Hague tribunal, and Dr. Smith, the profes-

sional head or adviser of the Fisheries Department, along with Mr. Robert Lansing, one of the counsel for the United States during the proceedings at the Hague last summer. On the part of Great Britain, Mr. Ambassador Bryce and his secretary, Mr. Young, attended, accompanied by Sir Edward Morris, the Prime Minister of Newfoundland and Captain O'Reilly, a fisheries officer of Newfoundland, and on the part of Canada, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Brodeur), and myself, with Dr. Wakeham, the fisheries officer in charge of operations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Meetings were had twice each day during the week and as a result of these ten or a dozen meetings, I am very glad to be able to say, that I think all our existing difficulties with regard to the fisheries, up to the present known, have been satisfactorily cleared up.

We had not only to consider the legislation and regulations of Canada, but those of Newfoundland as well. And after going through in detail, section by section and clause by clause, the whole of these regulations, the difference between the views entertained on the part of the United States and those entertained in this country and in Newfoundland seemed pretty well to classify themselves under general heads. It became reasonably evident, in the course of discussion, that at present at any rate it would not be possible for Newfoundland and the United States to agree. All parties were agreed in disliking the disposition of the matter which had been made by the award of last September. Every person present was convinced that a great deal could be done by conference, by explanation, by possible modification of any objectionable provisions of the regulations and by reasonable effort to come to a friendly understanding. And it was thought that if such effort should fail a much better practical means of settling the difficulty than the one which the tribunal had directed, could be found in the constitution of an independent board or mixed commission, one for Newfoundland and one for Canada, on which boards the United States should in each instance have its representative, and Canada and Newfoundland respectively, have theirs, with the intervention of a third man, who should not be a native of either country, in the event of the presence of such a third man being necessary. Accordingly, after going over all of the positions which were in question and discussing the whole situation generally, an agreement was reached on Wednesday of last week and that agreement was incorporated into a Minute of these Conferences, by which Minute it is agreed that this disposition of the matter which I have described, should be substituted for that which is directed by the award of last