

The question of the fisheries is said, no doubt with truth, to have occupied the serious attention of the International Commission. Under the treaty of 1818, which forms the basis of the rights of the two countries in the fisheries, American fishermen have the right to enter on harbors for four purposes: to obtain provisions, to replenish their water supplies, for shelter and for repairs. They want besides, the right to transship their fish, a facility which would save much valuable time and enable them largely to increase their catch. This right was not included in the bonding privilege respectively enjoyed by the two countries, under the treaty of Washington. That privilege is of more value to the Republic than to Canada, and the threat to abolish it has, on that account, become idle. If American fishermen desire a new privilege they do not appear to be anxious to pay for it, at least not to pay the price which Canadian fishermen ask, free access to the American market for Canadian fish. Once this price was paid under the old reciprocity treaty; a second time, 1888, it was agreed to be paid, but the United States Senate interposed with its veto. The question is still unsettled. There is talk of a legal commission to determine the meaning of the treaty of 1818. The meaning of that instrument is not seriously open to doubt. The Americans want bait from Newfoundland, and if report be true, would seem anxious to secure that boon by a separate treaty with the island. Very little hope of an agreement with Canada about the fisheries exists at present.

Both valuator, Canadian and American, are reported to have given in their estimates of the value of the Canadian sealing fleet in the Pacific. There is some difference in the two amounts, but the whole sum is said to be only about \$500,000. The witnesses are being cross-examined, and possibly under this process, necessary to arrive at the truth, even this small amount may be further reduced; it may of course be increased. But if Canada is to go out of the sealing business, surrender it to a rival, the mere sale of the apparel used in the venture would ill deserve the name of compensation. The loss of a national occupation surely deserves some requital.

Any treaty which may be agreed upon by the International Commission will have to run the gauntlet of the United States Senate. At present the Government does not command a majority in the Senate, but the Republican gains in the late elections have been sufficient to secure the election of a Republican majority in the Senate after the 4th March next. This gives the Washington Administration more latitude in the negotiation of a treaty with Canada. It is desirable, of course, that the Senate as at present constituted should ratify the treaty, if a treaty be made; but if the indications were that, for party reasons, it would fail to do so, a waiting policy would then be possible with something like an assured chance of success.

Mr. Henry Norman, in a cable despatch from London to the New York Times, quotes "an official close to the diplomatic circle," as pointing out that the real storm centre is Russia, and that she is fast being hemmed in by a cordon of hostile powers: Japan, the United States in the Philippines, England at Hong Kong, to which 400 square miles of mainland has recently been added. Behind these advanced posts England and America have reinforcing lines at San Francisco and Esquimaux. He adds that it is the belief that Russia will make an effort to break the cordon that constitutes what is alarming in the situation. There is some truth in this; to a certain extent it runs on all fours with what Mr. Chamberlain said. This, Mr. Norman thinks, explains why France is making her naval

preparations. No doubt England's preparations have reference to a possible war with Russia and France united, though not single handed on her side. If Germany should join this cordon-making force, as Mr. Chamberlain suggests and as the German press seems to favor, Russia and France combined need not create alarm.

No one outside of France or Italy was looking for a commercial treaty between these two countries, and its announcement, considering their previous relations, is a surprise. The old treaty was abrogated in consequence of a dispute over the silk duties; and as silk remains subject to the maximum tariff some other cause must have induced France to agree to a new treaty. Under this treaty the wine duties are modified so as to favor Italy, now becoming a rival in the production of wine. But it suits France to import as well as to export wine; in one year, one only, her imports equalled her exports of wine. For this result the destructive phyloxera was responsible. France can buy Italian wine, manipulate it into maturity, marry it with the produce of her own vines and make money by the operation. France is finding that similarity of products is no reason why the exchange of these articles should not be facilitated between two countries. Other nations may learn the lesson later.

BANKING REVIEW.

We give below a condensation of the figures of the statement of Canadian banks for the month of October, 1898. It is compared with the bank statement for the previous month, and shows capital, reserve, assets and liabilities, average holdings of specie and Dominion notes, etc.:-

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

	October, 1898.	September, 1898
LIABILITIES.		
Capital authorized	\$76,508,684	\$76,258,684
Capital paid up	63,051,104	62,900,034
Reserve Funds	27,619,464	27,555,666
Notes in circulation	\$42,543,446	\$40,071,148
Dominion and Provincial Government deposits	5,071,175	6,056,461
Public deposits on demand	87,352,116	87,214,909
Public deposits after notice	152,005,027	151,358,795
Bank loans or deposits from other banks secured	50,740
Bank loans or deposits from other banks unsecured	3,714,488	3,555,058
Due other banks in Canada in daily balances	130,803	160,707
Due other banks in foreign countries..	350,357	509,277
Due other banks in Great Britain.....	2,224,422	2,346,813
Other liabilities.....	449,112	551,900
Total liabilities	\$293,661,023	\$291,875,914
ASSETS.		
Specie	\$9,277,098	\$9,679,195
Dominion notes.....	16,601,509	17,806,324
Deposits to secure note circulation....	1,984,523	1,993,993
Notes and cheques of other banks.....	10,948,128	10,959,823
Loans to other banks secured.....	150,000
Deposits made with other banks.....	4,773,428	4,549,553
Due from other banks in foreign countries	23,353,645	22,169,025
Due from other banks in Great Britain..	13,085,537	12,272,780
Dominion Govt. debentures or stock	4,980,870	4,899,211
Other securities.....	34,188,523	34,682,053
Call loans on bonds and stock	23,972,295	23,745,140
.....	\$143,165,556	\$142,897,026
Current loans and discounts.....	224,928,415	222,361,523
Loans to Dominion and Provincial Governments	2,275,775	1,648,953
Due from other banks in Canada in daily exchanges	192,741	189,066
Overdue debts	2,525,641	3,406,913
Real estate.....	1,996,344	2,078,746
Mortgages on real estate sold.....	588,895	566,130
Bank premises	5,876,765	5,872,466
Other assets	2,469,396	2,980,995
Total assets	\$384,019,461	\$382,002,015