

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XLVI.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 15.

No. 20

THE FISHERY QUESTION.

The Hague Tribunal has justified its existence, and proved its usefulness as a great court for the trial of international disputes, by the manner in which it has dealt with the long-standing controversy between Great Britain and the United States respecting the Atlantic fisheries. Not only has it proved its capacity as an interpreter of the law of nations, but it has also maintained its dignity as the highest court known to the civilized world.

It is also satisfactory to us as Canadians to know that, often as we have accused the mother country of indifference to our interests, and negligence in protecting them, in this case there was no sign of indifference or negligence. From first to last the same position has been taken by her, and on the principal points of differences she has been justified in her contention by the decision of the Tribunal.

In preparation for the trial no expense was spared, and in its conduct the best talent of the British Bar was enlisted in our cause. Nor in this regard must we fail to record the good work that was done by the Minister of Justice, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, as well as by those who assisted in the preparation of the case. To examine and digest the diplomatic records, the voluminous despatches, state papers, and treaties connected with this controversy which has lasted for a century; to extract what was useful and important, to decide upon the relevancy or irrelevancy of the evidence from such a mass of documents, none of which could be neglected, was a task not only of supreme importance, but of endless difficulty, and to have successfully accomplished it is something of which all concerned may well be proud, and to whom all credit should be given.