

what they should be, this point being left, by the mutual consent of the powers interested, for the consideration of the two governments at a future time, when a detailed statement of claim could be had.

Great Britain accordingly, on behalf of Canada, presented the Canadian claim in due course and pressed for settlement. Mr. Gresham, the then secretary of state in President Cleveland's Government, was disposed to treat the matter fairly, and the sum of \$425,000 was accordingly agreed upon as being adequate by him and Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador at Washington, in 1893. It was then necessary to obtain the approval of Congress to the appropriation, the Canadian sealers in the meantime having signified their acquiescence in the amount arrived at. When the bill was brought before that body for approval, during the session of 1893, it was laid to one side, and again in the session of 1894 it was once more shelved, notwithstanding President Cleveland's appeal to Congress to provide for the payment of the claim. Last session it was again urged upon the people's representatives by the administration and once more rejected by Congress. Among those who opposed the bill there was a feeling that a much smaller sum would be fixed upon were the question of assessing the damages referred to arbitration. Senator Morgan, who was one of the arbitrators in Paris, declared before Congress that many of the Canadian claims were untenable because some of the vessels seized were owned by Americans, although registered under the British flag to evade seizure for poaching. The outcome of the action of Congress has been to re-open the question of damages completely, so that it is now no longer the amount of \$425,000 that has to be considered, but the original claim of the sealers, which, by the way, amounted to \$1,000,000, together with the interest thereon that has accrued since the seizures were made. Mr. Olney, who has succeeded to the office of Secretary of State, and the British Ambassador, Canada concurring, have together negotiated a treaty which provides for a joint commission to determine what the damages

should be, and it is agreed by both parties that the award of this commission shall be final.

Many of the American journals see in this the possibility of the United States being let in for a greater sum than that agreed upon by Mr. Gresham in 1893, and they are accordingly urging the President to recommend the payment of the original amount at once, before the new commission has had time to report.

The apparent desire of Congress to postpone payment of this just claim, indicates that the United States is still smarting under the effects of the severe defeat which its statesmen met with at Paris in 1893; whether this be so or not the extreme action taken by the people's representatives must greatly embarrass the administration of the day, which, through its representative, Mr. Gresham, were inclined to treat the matter in such a straightforward way.

With the Congressmen it is evidently a case of "If we must pay, we'll take our time about it."

We cannot help thinking, however, that, had the conditions been reversed, and the claim which Canada made on the United States been presented to Great Britain by the Republic for settlement, the British Parliament would have passed the item without discussion and in the same expeditious manner that the Alabama claim was settled.

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THE AFTER EFFECTS OF THE WAR SCARE.

Now that the mad conflagration started by President Cleveland over the Venezuelan boundary question has abated, and the attendant cloud of political clamor, which for a time obscured the real issue from view, has been dissipated, it is, in the subsequent light of reason, interesting to note the effect of the policies adopted by the two interested nations. The result of the dignified and self-respectful course, which England has followed in the face of the storm of buncombe turned loose upon her by the United States, in addition to portraying the calm, imputability of the nation, exemplifies the wisdom of dispassionate reflection. While the politicians and newspapers of the United States have been indulg-