THE VICTORIA TIMES

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IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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WM. TEMPLEMAN, Manager.

NOTICE.

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SEALING CLAIMS COMMISSION.

Ottawa correspondents have in connection with Sir Julian Pauncefote's visit to Ottawa credited the government with certain intentions regarding the sealers' claims to compensation for illegal seizure. One of these is to make Victoria the meeting place of the joint commission to be appointed with a view to a settlement of the claims. The other is to urge the United States government to agree to the immediate appointment of two commissioners, one representing each country, in order that the settlement may be effected without loss of time. There is no reason to suppose that the Washington government will refuse this reasonable request, and it may therefore be assumed that the proposed commission will commence its work, at Victoria at no very distant date. It representing Britain and Canada will be the "right man in the right place." Alpost. It will be worse than a pity if any of these should be successful, will adhere to and abide by the terms through political favoriteism or other- and conditions of this agreement and in wise, when there are good men avail- no way endeavor to evade them in spirit able. It will be easy enough for the government to select as commissioner an expert who has studied the subject | withdraw from this agreement and purin all its phases and has a thorough knowledge of the facts bearing on the il-There is so far good ground for hope act with right judgment and that it will net value of standard goods and of 121/2 not be led astray by extraneous consid. per cent. on the invoice value were the erations. At all events it cannot go far concessions made to all dealers who were wrong if it adopts the suggestions of properly docile and consented to carry those who are most vitally interested in the settlement of the claims.

DISAPPEARING LAKES.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press takes note of a phenomenon which may in some strength. In regard to it the Herald measure explain the lowering of water in observes: "It is interesting to observe the great lakes. It seems that a large numebr of the small lakes scattered over the area of Minnesota and the Dakotas are drying up; in many cases cultivated fields now ocupy rich bottoms formerly covered by from ten to twenty feet of water. Some eleven years ago in an official report of the state surveyorgeneral it was stated that Minnesota alone possessed 7,000 lakes of various magnitudes. A good many of these have disappeared altogether, and "there seems to be no instance in which even the largest and deepest lakes, though nourished by spring-fed streams, have not considerably diminished in volume.'

This is the summing up of a large number of replies from correspondents who were interrogated by the Pioneer Press. As to the Dakotas it says:

in extent. But nearly all of them have new disappeared, their ancient beds turned into fields and such as remain are shrunk to sloughs, or pools in great | not change its spots. The prospect of wastes of reedy mud. Lake Madison a revival of the combination ran the in South Dakota, one of the largest and finest lakes in that state, was equipped some years ago with steamboats and hotels and all arrangements for a Western Chautauqua assembly. It had a reach of five miles for steamboat ex cursions and in great part was from twenty to thirty feet deep. It has suf- wholesalers groan. The National Polfered the fate of all the rest, and the icy, and the National Policy alone, waters have so far retreated that at the present rate of decrease it will not be long before they disappear entirely."

Proceeding to discuss the cause of the drying up of the lakes the Pioneer Press

gives its conclusions as follows:agreed that it is due, first, to the diminished rainfall of the last ten, and especially of the last six or seven years, and, second, in the cultivation of the soil in their neighborhood, which has wise have been drained into the lakes. There is no doubt that this is the true explanation. Before the soil was broken up for farming purposes the native sod formed a thatched roof from which within the limits of the drainage area ly into the streams and lakes. But when plowman broke up this roof every furrow cut off the natural drainage, and it was absorbed in the sand loam, which forms the prevailing soil of both Min-

for the gradual drying up of the lakes." result of the cultivation of the soil perhaps a third or more of them will permanently disappear. The remainder will fluctuate in volume with the average rainfall, shrinking materially during the successive dry seasons and reappearing in all their ancient beauty when the rain comes back to fill their empty bewls." It seems reasonable to suppose that the causes which have operated against the smaller lakes have likewise affected the larger bodies of water forming the St. Lawrence waterway. The clearing away of the forest along their shores and along the tributary streams supplies a further explanation in

TARIFF BEAUTIES.

The Montreal Herald notes the revival of the Canadian nail "combine," which a few years ago ruled the Canadian nail market to its own liking and advantage. It was formed in 1891, and for some time had all dealers under its thumb, as they were held to an agreement, which compelled them to keep nails up to a certain price or pay the penalty of having the supplies cut off. Of course the so they were obliged to do as the combine directed. The old agreement which follows -

"In consideration that we, the undersigned manufacturers of wire nails, alwould be satisfactory to have equally low a rebate of - cent per pound, paygood assurances that the commissioner able June 30th and December 31st, on your purchases of wire nails, you agree not to sell under our established price, as it may be fixed from time to time, ready remor is busy with the names of and that you will do no act or thing in several alleged applicants who have but connection with the sale of wire nails the faint shadow of qualification for the tending to decrease the price of them, and will in no case allow more than three per cent. cash discount, and that you or letter, confining all your purchases of these goods to the undersigned, or giv ing ten days' notice of your desire to chase elsewhere

"If any of the associates to this agreelegal seizures. To choose as commis- lated its provisions you will be notified, sioner a man not thoroughly conversant and should you fail to furnish evidence, with the case would be an injury to accompanied by a sworn statement to the country as well as to the sealers. the contrary, you agree to waive any ing accomplished. and all claim to the rebate."

out the terms of the agreement. The old combine fell to pieces because of a falling market, of internal dissensions and of the commercial weakness of certain of the individual members. The new one appears to have greater

that the combine has been revived, with a prospect of the possession of greater strength than ever before. The American system of the fixing of the output of the several manufactories involved 12 Press, an independent paper: the agreement and the pooling of rethe Canadian manufacturers.. This must tend to secure the greatest possible strength of combination. We are given to understand that the Maritime Province interest, which has frequently shown a most disconcerting tendency to independence, finding expression in most reckless cutting of rates from time to time, have been reconciled on what promises to be a mutually satisfactory basis. In all regards the new combine seems fairly to outpoint the old. It seems to have none of its weaknesses. On the other hand, it plainly possesses "There were many large lakes in these more than the old strength. We are not states ten years ago, some of them miles in the confidence of the nail men. We do not know what form their new agreement may take. But the leopard canprices of nails up 40 cents a hundred . several weeks ago. Further increases may be looked for at any time, and the history of the combine encourages the belief that those prices will be enforced by an agreement which will make the

makes all this possible." Another point of beauty in the present tariff has been making itself more keenly appreciated of late, namely, the incidence of the iron duties. Commenting on an article on this subject in the "Our corespondents are generally Hardware and Metal Merchant, a trade journal, the Toronto Globe puts the case in this way: "During the last revision it was decided that after January 1, 1895, the duty on scrap iron should be absorbed the rainfall that would other-increased from \$2 to \$4 a ton, making it equal to the duty on pig iron. The effect tion, he says, is one of fact rather than was not noticed while the financial of law, and before meddling with such troubles in the United States made the a sharp-edged tool as a remedial order Smith, with 1000, are outside and will holders of scrap willing to sell at unusually low prices, and there were many just how far the circumstances of the the water from rain or snow flowed free- great piles of scrap iron in the yards of case would justify him in going. Not machine shops and dealers in Canada. until he had thus fortified himself, But now the American rolling mills have making sure of his ground and being a demand for all the scrap obtainable, nesota and Dakota. The diminished fusing offers of \$2 a ton higher than the to be hoped from the Manitoba govern-

drainage basin and the diminished rain- ruling price a short time ago, the manu- ment, would be have taken the extreme fall together are sufficient to account facturers of bar iron are feeling the pressure of the increased duty. The quan-The disappearance will be permanent, tity of pig iron imported into Canada the smaller and shallower lakes, which There is plenty of this to be had, but Manitaba school question. depended altogether on surface drainage. the rolling mills cannot afford to make The larger bodies of water, fed by bar iron from pig at the present prices streams or by adequate drainage area, ruling in the two classes. This is where are likely to fill up again, since there the obstruction placed on the purchase is no reason to suppose that the dim- of scrap, which is essential to the profitinished rainfall of the last eight or nine able manufacture of bar iron, is most years indicates a permanent change of severely felt. The Hardware and Metal climate. The cycle of dry years is Merchant says that the question of scrap pretty certain to be succeeded by a cycle iron has long been a sore one, and has of wet ones, as has happened in the played a part of more or less prominence duty. But the rolling mills have fought | most famous medical college. desperately against every advance made, and are by no means inclined to regard themselves as conquered yet. A short time ago they sent a strong deputatioa removal or reduction of the duty, but not seem to have been as effective as setting out to "protect" all industries. Some of them are bound to get left in the race, and in this case the men whose raw material consists of pig and scrap iron have good reason to complain that they are the victims.

BRITISH FARMERS.

man has only to look at the facts ar- the border of Venezuela. The Cleveland true state of the case. It suits certain if it obeyed all the behests of the jingoes. people to forget or ignore the fact that the game of protection was once tried suffered from it like the rest of the population. It is a well known fact that agriculture was most depressed when protection was at its highest, in the days of the cld corn-laws. At that Pacific liner Strathnevis was preparing particular time the importation of for her departure to the Orient, and 31 eign wheat was actually prohibited un- Japanese and 150 Chinese were being less the price of wheat in England was assigned to temporary berths between at least 80 shillings a quarter, yet the decks. Those berths nearest the hatch farmers of England were nearer ruin then than they are now. There are two many people in Britain who know of the distress of the corn law days to allow of a revival of those evil times be-

MR. LAURIER'S POSITION

Mr. Laurier commenced his Outerio tour with a meeting at Morrisburg, row was stopped at once. where his speech was largely devoted to shoremen had to use fists and feet quickthe Manitoba school question. Ottawa ly and severely to restore order. dispatches report the government as somewhat troubled over his remarks, Japanese to the main assumed before the offi for he spoke strongly against the policy cers and searched by Constable McKenof coercion on which the government so na of the provincial police. Everyone rashly embarked. It is probable that of them was armed and their weapous no matter what Mr. Laurier says or were taken from them. They were givleaves unsaid the Conservative papers will represent him as speaking indefinitely and taking different positions in different places. In view of this fact is no trouble en voyage. it is of interest to note the following comments from the Winnipeg Free

"It will scarcely be contended many ceipts on that basis has been adopted by longer that Mr. Laurier's attitude on the Manitoba School question is not explicit enough to show where he stands. The report of his Morrisburg speech is of the briefest, it is true, but as a declaration of policy on this question it is neither insufficient nor obscure. He condemns the action of the Dominion government in sending its peremptory remedial order, intending to coerce Manitoba. We are not sure but that is pericy enough for any man to have to show where he is. The action referred to was most ill-advised. Members of the Fedthem the necessity of advancing slow-We also learn from his declaration of

past, we are bound to believe him. minority, he would still hesitate before nothing special to report. taking the extreme course. The queshe would have appointed a commission arrive later. absolutely convinced not only of the ne-

step of asking parliament to interfere in the matter. This is all explicit enough to be intelligible to the meanest understanding, and if words mean anythe Pioneer Press thinks, in the case of yearly is from 20,000 to 30,000 tons. thing it is Mr. Laurier's policy on the

> The last Dominion Official Gazette contained a proclamation further proroguing parliament until the 19th of November. Our Ottawa correspondent points out if there is to be a session, as promised by the government, that it cannot be held before January next.

not registered as required by the Med- the fact that English tarmers are now gineers to banish it. How true this past. The Pioneer Press concludes: in all tariff revisions. But it serves to ical Act, was fined \$25 for practising in distress. This they have done in "Of the 7,000 lakes of Minnesota in show that as long as a government seeks medicine. Dr. McKechnie testified that such a way as to lead the public to in-1885, it is quite probable that as the to help one line of business at the ex- Dr. Drysdale was his assistant and act- fer that their (the English rarmers) dispense of another there will be a sore spot ing under his instructions, and that he tress is owing to the foreign competition somewhere. The greater the obstruction (Dr. McKechnie) had charge of the case tree trade induces. on the purchase of scrap iron the better on which the prosecution, which was at it is for the makers of pig iron. But the instance of the Medical Council, had most of the advantages resulting from been taken. The case will be appealed. they enjoy under free trade, that their the Canadian tax on scrap has fallen to The prosecution could not claim that Dr. distress is owing to the prevalence of the pig iron makers of the United States. Drysdale was not a competent medical The large machine shops and dealers in man, for he stands well to the front scrap iron naturally favor the higher among recent graduates of Canada's

The Montreal trades and labor council has brought to the notice of the public farmers there, like those of other counsome instances of extremely low wages to wait on the government to urge the paid in that city. Men working for a sewer contractor are said to be doing the pressure they brought to bear does their hard work for 80 cents a day. Clerks in some of the dry goods stores that exerted by their opponents." This get \$3 per week of 72 hours' work, or provements in transport, communication scrap iron duty has, in fact, supplied at the rate of 50 cents a day for 12 and labor saving devices, reduced the Book," published in 1876, the total price of the leading commodities them. another illustration of the foolishness of hours. Some women have been found working 12 hours a day for 50 cents a 1889. week. And all this in Montreal, a city supposed to be peculiarly benefitted by

American jingo papers are urging their government to force Spain into an imme- | whilst the things they do produce only diate settlement of the Cuban trouble, some of them varying the programme so In his letter which appears elsewhere far as to order that the rebels be recog-N. P. kept them from importing nails, Mr. Washington very clearly refutes the nized as belligerents, though the rebels the fall of values arises from the fact statement that the British farmers are seem to have no organization that they that during this period the introduction being ruined by free trade. If farmers can recognize themselves. At the same the dealers were obliged to sign ran as anywhere are in a way to benefit by time the government is ordered by the protection, those in Britain would appear jingoes to prevent Britain from holding agriculture only 40 per cent. to be so situated, but the thoughtful territory which she undoubtedly owns on agriculture only 40 per cent. rayed by Mr. Washington to see the administration would have its hands full

THE WAR REVIVED.

in Great Britain, and that the farmer Chinese and Japanese on the Strathnevis Nearly Engage in Battle.

> The outer wharf came very near be ing the scene of a Chinese-Japanese bat-tle yesterday at noon. The Northern way were deemed the best, and when the Japs reached the scene they found them occupied by the Chinese. Now the lowliest coolie Jap believes he is better than the proudest Chinese mandarin, and the Mikado's men ordered the celestials to vacate. They did not vacate and the Japanese attacked them. Weapons were drawn and another second would the stevedore, and four of the biggest men happened to on the spot and the Chinese were hustled forward and the en return checks and these will be honored at Yokohama. Any weapons found among the Chinese were taken from them, and the officers will see that there The Strathnevis left at 3 o'clock. She carried away a big cargo of 2500 tons

dead weight. It was made up of flour, condensed milk and general freight. EIGHT SEALERS ARRIVE HOME.

They Have Fair Catches-Three More Schooners Outside

The blow of the last 48 hours brought a big fleet of sealers up the straits. They commenced coming in yesterday, and it was a procession until this afternoon. There are several in the straits, but they will be in by nightfall. The arrivals were the Sapphire, Capt. Win. eral government might have the highest | Cox, with 1980; Otto, Capt. McLeod, possible respect for the finding of the with 1111; Victoria, Capt. Balcom, with Privy Council, as we all have; and even 1407; Dora Sieward, Capt. Sieward, have regarded it as an injunction to in- with 2084; Walter L. Rich, Capt. Balterfere, which is by no means so certain. com, with 1358; Henrietta, Capt. W. But knowing as they must have done McDougal, with 201; Labrador, owned that interference would be a very ser- by Indians, 240; and Penelope, Capt. ious matter, indeed, the most ordinary Heater, with 900. Capt. Cox, of the prudence ought to have suggested to Sapphire, got 1783 in the sea, and 197 on the coast. The Dora Sieward got ly. Instead of swooping down on the 1580 in the sea and 504 on the coust. province with their peremptory order to Maj. Alexander, naturalist from the U. do so and so on pain of suppression, men S. Fish commission steamer Albaruss, of discretion would have invited a con- spent nearly the entire season on the ference with a view to an amicable set- Sieward, and came to Victoria on her. tlement of the difficulty; they would He was making investigations of seal have given Manitoba the opportunity to life and has made the season a very act for itself, before taking it by the useful one. He carried his research in throat under their strained construction almost every possible direction, and has of the Privy Council judgment. That is secured many excellent specimens. The the course Mr. Laurier says he would officers of the Sieward found him an have taken, and as he has been saying agreeable shipmate. The Rich took over it without variation for a year or two | 1200 in the sea and 158 on the coast. She picked up two canoes from the Victoria in the sea, and kept them policy what else he would have done if season. The Victoria speared 1220 of put to it. If the Manitoba government her catch in the sea and 187 on the or legislature had positively refuse 1 to coast, and like the rest of the fleet had budge on the question, he would then an uneventful season. The Henrietta's have thought it necessary to consider to crew report very rough weather throughwhat extent he was bound by the jung- out their cruise in the sea. The Otto ment of the Privy Council. If compell- got over 800 in Behring sea and the baled by it to interfere on behalf of the ance on the coast. Capt. McLeod had

The schooner Annie C. Moore, Capt. Hackett, with 1570; the Ainoko, Capt. W. Heater, with 1000, and Florence M.

When Baby wa, sick. we gave her Castoria, When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria, and Canadian holders of scrap are reof it, and satisfied also that nothing was When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

THE BRITISH FARMER.

Not Injured But Benefitted by Freedom of Trade Instructive Facts.

"Protection" Would do him Harm now as it did When the Corn Laws Existed

To the Editor:-During the last two years untiring efforts have been made by the protectionists in parliament, on Dr. Drysdale, of Nanaimo, who had the stump and in the press, to parade spite of the efforts of inventors and

The following facts prove beyond doubt that English farmers are in disdecreased 50 per cent. since she tress in spite of the unaqubted benefits an English institution at present beyond the control of parliament, and from which our farmers are comparatively free, and finally that protection induces the spread of this institution.

The proofs that English farmers are benefited by free trade are many. The tries, have only one way of making any profitable use of the things they produce, and that is by exchanging them for its. things they do not or cannot produce. in England and Wales advanced The foreign competition free trade induces in England combined with imprice of the leading commodities there paid by the farmers of England a 35 1-2 per cent. between 1854 and (1) Contrary to the popular notion this

fall in prices added very materially to the farmer's profits, owing to the fact that the price of the things they no not or cannot produce fell 60 per cent., fell 11 per cent., leaving the farmers much better off at the lower range of prices. (1) The reason for this wide difference in

of labor saving devices increased the productiveness of labor applied to manufacture 200 per cent.; that applied to The open competition free trade in-

duces in England gives the farmer there the full benefit of the low prices modern improvements make possible.

Protection is an effort more or less successful to keep up the prices in spite of modern improvements. Unfortunately for our farmers this can only affect the things they do not or cannot produce, the price of the things they do produce being regulated by the cheapest market in the world, viz., that of F.ng-

This fact accounts for the fall in farm land values in Canada since we introduced protection in 1870.

Another incontrovertible proof that the English farmer's profits increaseed during this period of falling prices and open competition lies in the fact that their rents and tithes increased 36 per cent., namely, from \$333,000,000 in 1841 to \$482,000,000 in 1889. (2.)

Some leading men of affairs who favor tariff for revenue only, judging from their public utterances, believe that, in-Frank Yorke, the wonderful extension of agriculture the world over that have taken placduring the last forty years, hurts the English farmer. Such a notion must be erroneous, for if English farmers are injured by cheap freights and the extension of the area of cultivation, all farmers must be similarly affected. This assumption would naturally lead to the very absurd conclusion that the world would have been better off without the inventors and engineers who have made cheap freights and such extension of agriculture possible; for, as all industries are built upon and daily sustained by the farmers, anything that injures their material interest must injure that of the whole country.

It will be seen from the foregoing that any distress the English farmers are suffering, cannot be truthfully attributed to free trade, the low prices induced thereby, extension of agriculture or cheap freights, all these things having benefited them in common with the farmers of the world, and through them very individual on it.

The notion that modern improvements



Catarrh in the Head Is a dangerous disease because it is

liable to result in loss of hearing or

smell, or develop into consumption. Read the following: "My wife has been a sufferer from catarrh for the past four years and the disease had gone so far that her eyesight was affected so that for nearly a year she was unable to read for more than five minutes at a time. She suffered severe pains in the head and at times was almost distracted. About Christmas, she commenced taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, and since that time has steadily improved, ranged to meet at the state department She has taken six bottles of Hood's Sar- next week to formulate a treaty for th saparilla and is on the road to a complets cure. I cannot speak too highly of Hood's

tt." W. H. FURSIER, Newmarket, Ontario Hood's Sarsaparilla Is the Only True Blood Purifier

Sarsaparilla, and I cheerfully recommend

Prominently in the public eye today.

Hood's Pills cure habitual constipa-

hurt the farming interests anywhere the world involves the belief that Arkwrights, Watts, Stevensons, Shanleys, who have done so much create abundance (another name cheapness) have been a curse to kind, and is on a par with the co sion that all ideas of protection lead namely, that war and famine are ings in disguise. Protection in is a species of civil war waged by part of the community who fear brave men delight in and thrive namely, competition. Its object and fect is to create scarcity (another for dearness) thus causing faming some in all protected communities is illustrated by the the fact (proved official returns) that the number of in proportion to population is s increasing in all protected countries increase being most rapid in the highly protected countries, whilst in trade England the poorest class ha

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doned protection as her fiscal po The following facts point to of the English farmers' distress. and present-for they suffered mo quently under protection than under trade. English farmers as a rul yearly tenants (4), they have to hire land from the landed gentry, 10,20 whom own two-thirds of all the land This monopoly of the land, comb with competition amongst farmers the privilege of renting it, tends crease rents faster than farmers' The average rent of all farm \$2.64 per acre in 1760 (1) to \$14.69 1873 (3), tithes and taxes in propo-

According to the "New Doom Wales in 1875 was \$496,000,000, and tithes \$125,000,000. (3.)

For some years after this rents continued to advance until the burder forced many off the land, hence the present distress. The distress among the English farmers during the agitation for free trade (1835-46), furnished the ponents of the measure their stronger arguments against it. Throughout last two centuries the records of times are replete with evidences periodical distress amongst the Englis farmers. All authorities point to th persistent tendency of rent to advance as the cause of these recurring periods of distress. During the agitation free trade, owing to the high duty

wheat, rents were inflated, but in of this inflation and contrary to expec tation of those who opposed free trade rents advanced for over 30 years (1850) 80), after the duty on wheat was taken (This advance in rents could possibly have taken place unless farmer profits had increased). Finally the lands gentry of England are too powerful permit any governmental interferen between them and their tenants. Law have been passed for Ireland, the and effect being to curb the cupidity landowners there. The result is we had no complaints from the farmers of Ir land at present, though they are subject to the same competition as the English farmers. In Scotland long leases are the rule; this in a measure protects them (the farmers) from the cupidity that throughout the ages, with some honorable exceptions, seems inseparable from landlordism.

The census returns of Canada and the United States prove beyond doubt that being a species of landlordism in disguise, as the following few words will show.

When the landlord increases the ten ant farmer's rent the effect is to reduce the farmer's profits and increase the landlord's income, exactly as the increase in duty on coal oil, sugar, or any other product our farmers are obliged to exchange their products for must increase the price of said product, and reduce the farmer's margin of profits, and corsequently, the value of his land, and in creases the income of the oil produce or sugar refiner; therefore in so far as the manufacturers and combines contro the government, and we know they in all protected countries, protection co fers on them the privileges of ownership in the land without its responsibilities They have but to raise the duties high enough and under this system they could transfer all the farmers' profits to their own pockets, as many English landlords are in the habit of doing.

After 30 years' protection in the United States 52.20 per cent. of the furmers have become tenants; at the beginning of the period rent-paying tenants

were almost unknown. (5). Eighty-seven thousand odd Canadian farmers were subject to landlords in 1891, an increase of 50 per cent during one decade of protection. A few more years of this system of taxation and the evil that has crushed the life out of the English farmers for centuries past wi be the lot of our own, without their hav ing the power to retrieve themselves through the ballot box, for the privileges granted the manufacturers and combines can be voted away, landlerdism cannot

H. WASHINGTON. Ottawa, October 3. (1). Mullhall's Dictionary of Statis-

(2). Mullhall's 50 Years of National Progress. (3). Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. 8. (4). Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. 1 page 407. (5). U. S. Extra Census Bulletin No

TO SETTLE SEALING CLAIMS. Representatives of the Governments In terested Will Meet Next Week.

Washington, Oct. 12.-The representatives of the British, Canadian and United States governments have ar settlement of the claims of British ves sel owners, whose sealing craft were seized by the United States prior to the announcement of the Paris arbitration, and antecedent to the modus

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ice and from Wi chiefs. the new

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