

lish that these mountains contain gold and other precious metals, and that the rivers carry gold deposits, and are replete with fish, such as salmon, trout, &c. A population of miners and fishermen has found its way to that region to work out its riches, and already a number of canning establishments are to be found there. In 1885, Mr. Bayard, the Secretary of State for the United States, in a despatch on this question to the American Minister in London, Mr. Phelps, said :

“Rude and inaccessible as is the ‘sea of mountains’ of south-eastern Alaska and forbidding as it may appear for ordinary purposes of inland settlement, it should be remembered that it is a mineral-bearing region, the geological continuation of the gold and silver belt of California and Nevada, and may at any time spring into an importance not now calculable. It is of evident advantage to both countries to agree upon some boundary line capable of survey at a reasonable cost, yet so precisely and practically described, that in case of need any given point thereon may be readily determined in advance of a general survey, and to do this while the whole question of local values is in abeyance.”

Therefore, it is very important for the two countries that this question be settled without further delay, in order that we may not have to deal with difficulties that may later arise, and in order to avoid conflicts of individual interests, or conflicts of jurisdiction which may result in retarding or embarrassing the locating of the line. President Grant, in his message to Congress on the 2nd of December, 1872, said :

“Experience of the difficulties attending the determination of our admitted line of boundary, after the occupation of our territory and its settlement by those owing allegiance to the respective Governments, points to the importance of establishing, by natural objects or other monuments, the actual line between the territory acquired by purchase from Russia, and adjoining possessions of Her Britannic Majesty. The region is now so sparsely occupied that no conflicting interests of individuals or jurisdiction are likely to interfere to the delay or embarrassment of the actual location of the line. If deferred until population shall enter and occupy the territory some trivial contest of neighbours may again array the two Governments in antagonism. I therefore recommend the appointment of a commission to act jointly with one that may be appointed on the part of Great Britain to determine the line between our territory of Alaska and the coterminous possessions of Great Britain.”

There is no difficulty as to the line which follows the one hundred and forty-first degree of longitude from the glacial sea, down to Mount St. Elias ; but there the difficulty begins, to continue as far as Portland canal according to the American claim, which would give them the Prince of Wales, Pierce and other islands, or as far as the Straits of Clarence, according to our claim, which would give us those islands. Difficulty is also met in regard to the width of the strip of land extending along the coast, and bounded by the crest of the mountains the nearest from the coast when not at more than ten marine leagues therefrom, a limitation which we claim to be independent of the indentations of the coast, while the Americans claim it to be otherwise. Serious studies of the question have been made by Dr. Dawson on our behalf, and Mr. Dall on behalf of the United States. Let us now examine the question of shipwreck and salvage. According to the present law and customs regulations, as there are more shipwrecks on the northern shores of the lakes and rivers which divide us from our neighbours, than on the south shores, I believe that we have the best of it. However, as it is our wish to live in harmony with them, I am happy to see that amicable arrangements have

been made for the settlement of this question. We also learn with pleasure that they have agreed to appoint an international commission to report on the regulations to be adopted by the United States and Canada, to prevent the use of destructive methods of fishing, the pollution of our rivers, the uniform closing of fishing seasons, and on other means for the preservation and increase of fish. It is an acknowledged fact that notwithstanding all that we may do everywhere in the Dominion wherever our lakes and rivers form the boundary line between the two countries, if our friends of the other side of the line do not take the same measures that we do for the preservation and the propagation of fish, our efforts and our expenditure in that direction will be useless. I might instance the shores of the American Atlantic where the absence of regulations has allowed the destruction of fisheries formerly of great value. The Speech from the Throne tells us of the appointment of a commission to investigate the working of the Civil Service Act. I am sure that the report which will be made by the distinguished men who compose this commission, will be of great advantage in reforming the abuses which may exist. I must at the same time congratulate the Government upon the prompt action they have taken in expelling from the service all those found guilty of irregularities. And I am certain that they will continue this policy until no dishonest employes remain ; because it is of the highest importance for the good administration of the country, that the employes of the Civil Service, more than any other class of society, be above suspicion, and they should be thoroughly convinced that no irregularity will be forgiven them. But it is a consoling fact that out of so large a number of employes, so few dishonest ones should be found to have failed in their duty. We see every day in the best of our financial institutions, and in spite of the strictest control, employes becoming defaulters. It is not surprising, therefore, that occasionally some be found in the Civil Service, and from what I know of the service, and the acquaintance I have with a number of employes, I must say that as a body the Civil Service is as honourable and honest as any other class of society. The next paragraph informs us that the report of the commission of enquiry into the question of beet-root sugar will be submitted to us. It is a question which certainly deserves all the attention of this House and of the country. I hope that we will continue to protect an industry which should be a source of great riches to the provinces the soil and climate of which are adapted to the growing of this plant, and which should be of as great a benefit to us as it has been to France, Germany and the other European countries where it has become one of the main industries. It is said that whoever can cause two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before is a benefactor of his country, and I consider that Napoleon the First has done more for France, in causing the French to produce their own sugar than in winning all the battles which made of him the greatest man of Europe. We also see with pleasure that a measure codifying our criminal law is to be submitted to Parliament, but as the Bill was already put before the House last year, and as almost every member is acquainted with it, there is no necessity for further remarks. We also see that measures