

doubted whether British effrontery could go so far as to submit such a proposition as this, let me remind you that we import most of our ship-timber from Canada, that wages in the Dominion are but from sixty-six to seventy-five per cent. of those we customarily pay, and invite your attention to Article IX., which is as follows:—

“For the term of years mentioned in Article XIII. of this treaty, vessels of all kinds built in the United States may be purchased by inhabitants of Canada, subjects of Great Britain, and registered in Canada as Canadian vessels, and, reciprocally, vessels of all kinds built in Canada may be purchased by citizens of the United States, and registered in the United States as United States vessels.”

It may not be improper to remark to the ladies who honor me with their presence, and who are not familiar with the technical language of commerce, that a vessel registered as a United States vessel may sail under our flag and engage in our domestic or coast-wise carrying trade; and that as timber is so much cheaper and wages so much lower in Canada than in the United States, we would under this stipulation soon count ship-building as a lost art. Whether at the end of twenty-four years, for which the treaty is to bind us, Congress could revive it by annulling the treaty and reviving the wise navigation laws of the fathers, no thoughtful man will attempt to say.

It Proposes to Remit Jurisdiction over Part of our Territory, Lighthouses, and Fisheries to Joint Commissions.

Not content with extending the British frontier to the wharves of New York and extirpating our ship-yards, the authors of this project propose that we shall yield jurisdiction over our soil—so far as the matter of lighthouses on the great lakes, and the promotion of the propagation of fish in inland water, which are to be made common to both people—to joint commissions; and, after having thus illustrated the excessive modesty of British diplomacy, the treaty graciously provides, that, after the expiration of twenty-one years from the 1st day of July, 1875, either of the high contracting parties may give notice of its wish that, at the end of three years from the giving of such notice, the treaty shall terminate. As it would require Congress to instruct the President to give such notice, more than a quarter of a century must elapse before we will be able to escape peaceably from the crippling, dwarfing, and enfeebling provisions of this treaty about which the people were not to be consulted. What minister or senator has the prescience to determine the fiscal policy this country will require ten or twenty years hence,