

This treaty was designed to end the embroilments constantly occurring between the rival fishermen in those days, though it is needless to say now that it not alone failed utterly in this, but also provoked more friction as the years went by. Nearly every clause in the compact contained a debatable issue, and this "fishery question" was a cause of difficulty down to the present time. It was a large factor in the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854-1866; in the Washington Treaty of 1871-1885; in the abortive Chamberlain-Bayard Treaty of 1888; in successive futile "pilgrimages to Washington" by Canadian statesmen in more recent times, and in the negotiating with Newfoundland of the Bond-Blaine Convention of 1890, and the Bond-Hay Convention of 1902. Finally, it provoked the legislative and diplomatic war between Newfoundland and the United States, which began in 1905, involved the imperial government in the unpleasant task of overriding colonial enactments, and finally compelled the reference of the whole vexatious problem to the Hague Tribunal as a last resort.

At the Imperial Conference of 1907, Newfoundland, which had been in the forefront of the struggle against alleged American aggression, agreed to arbitration, and Canada, though her fishery relations with the United States were then more cordial, undertook to join with her in this reference. Great Britain, as one signatory power to the Convention of 1818, concluded an agreement, in January, 1908, with the United States, the other signatory power, to refer the problem to the Hague Tribunal for solution. Sixteen months were consumed in the preparation of the respective cases, by eminent lawyers representing the several parties to the proceedings, and the Tribunal met on June 1st, to hear oral arguments and to render a decision.

Great Britain was represented, as the agent or solicitor charged with the conduct of her case, by the Hon. A. B. Aylesworth, Minister of Justice for Canada, while the counsel were Sir W. S. Robson, Attorney-General, Sir R. B. Finlay, ex-Attorney-General, and Sir Erle Richards, all of England;