

independent of other countries, in giving employment to capital and people, in teaching Canadians the benefits of self-reliance, and in helping to create a national feeling.

The maritime industry of the Dominion continues to add largely to the wealth of the people. The fisheries of British North America, from the earliest period of which we have any historical record, have been the resort of the vessels of the great maritime powers. Soon after the discovery of the continent of America Basque and Breton fishermen cast their lines on the banks of Newfoundland, and from that time to this a large fleet of French fishermen annually finds its way to the coast of Newfoundland, where France still clings to the little islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, as indispensable to the successful prosecution of those fisheries which she has always prized so highly. The value of the annual catch of the Canadian fisheries has increased from two million pounds sterling in 1875 to over three million and a half at the present time. The deep sea fishery is now carried on in a better and larger class of vessel than formerly, and the crews are consequently able to compete successfully with the enterprising fishermen of Gloucester and other ports of New England. The question of the fisheries has again been reopened by the repeal of those clauses of the Washington Treaty of 1871 which allowed the Americans access to the fishing grounds of Canada in return for the free importation of Canadian fish into the American market, and for a money compensation of five million and a half of dollars awarded the Dominion by a Commission appointed under that Treaty. The history of the Fisheries proves conclusively that the people of New England have always cast an envious eye on the mackerel, herring and other inshore fisheries of Canada, and now that the controversy has been revived we may be sure there will be a determined effort on their part to gain access to these valuable waters on terms as little favourable as possible to the Dominion. The Canadians, however, knowing the increasing value of their fisheries are not disposed to surrender their rights without receiving adequate return. They are quite prepared, as in 1854, to enter into a fair arrangement of reciprocal trade in certain products of both countries; but it is also quite evident that they will not make any treaty with their neighbours which will in any way interfere with the success of the National Policy, or make Canadians dependent on the United States.

The old provinces of Canada possess natural features eminently favourable to the development of a great marine. In the first place