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at their peril, how far were the two nations from the possibility of going to war over a question of seals? The argument in question fails too, to take account of the moral difficulties, the human passions and prejudices involved. It is not a question of what the two governments could do but of what they would do. The fact that notwithstanding the presence and influence of the arbitrators from other nations, the United States and Canadian representatives of the Board respectively voted yea and nay on the question of regulations which were the product of the best wisdom of all concerned, and which made a verdict possible, may suffice to show how much probability there was that a mixed commission could have been formed, or could have reached an agreement if formed. In view of such considerations we see no reason to hesitate to regard the Paris decision as a triumph of the principle of international arbitration.

The prospect for the unconditional repeal of the Sherman Silver Act by the United States Congress are probably brightening. The progress of events makes it more clear that this is the one thing that must be done. The attempts to secure conditions, such as the fixing of a new ratio between gold and silver, seem really to be helping on the President's policy of unconditional repeal, by showing the impossibility of agreement upon any such ratio. The proposal of Senator Bland and a few supporters to change the ratio from one to 16 to one to 20 is denounced by the populists, who say that that or any other change of ratio would be a giving away of the whole principle for which they are contending. They want a larger volume of circulation, not a larger silver dollar. The change of ratio proposed would, they say, and the argument suggests volumes, add one-fourth to the national debt and to all private debts. Even if the opposition of the populists, who are not very strong in voting power, were disregarded and the principle of a change of ratio conceded by the pro-silver leaders, their cause would be pretty sure to suffer shipwreck in the attempt to determine what the new ratio should be. Perhaps the chief danger to the cause of repeal now arises or may yet arise from the fact that the tension of the financial situation has been somewhat relaxed by the change which has taken place in the direction of the gold current and the return of a considerable sum from England and other European coun-

tries. Some are ready to infer, that as the monetary situation has begun to improve without the repeal of the Silver Act, the repeal of that Act cannot be the *sine qua non* it has been represented to be—a hasty and unwarranted conclusion of course, since it is pretty clear that the prospect of the repeal of that Act is one of the chief influences in promoting a return of British capital, and any change in the situation which would make repeal doubtful would quickly check the inflow and reverse the current of foreign gold.

Curiously suggestive is the statement of Mr. Edison, reported in the Review of Reviews, to the effect that he hates the products of his own inventive brain—when once they have taken shape and passed into general use. "Anything I have begun," he is quoted as saying, "is always on my mind, and I am not easy while away from it until it is finished, and then I hate it." And again, in response to an ejaculation of the astonished and incredulous reporter: "When it is all done and is a success, I can't bear the sight of it. I haven't used a telephone in ten years, and I would go out of my way any day to miss an incandescent light." Strange as the fact may at first seem, it becomes far less surprising on a little reflection and comparison with individual experience. It would be interesting to learn the mental history of various individuals in regard to such matters. There would, we fancy, be found to be no lack of sympathy and similarity with Mr. Edison's experience. What hard-working journalist, for instance, does not often turn with a tired feeling, which is not far removed from disgust, or even loathing, from the printed representation of that which may have cost him much toil and weariness. No doubt the same thing is constantly taking place in the minds of other workers as they come in contact with the finished products of their industry. The old adage, "familiarity breeds contempt," has a new application in such cases. And yet there must be many exceptions, or what becomes of the stories we have so often heard of the delight which authors and others have taken in the work of their own brains or hands. As we have said, a chapter of experiences, drawn from living, representative men and women, in this regard would be full of interest. Here is a chance for some industrious interviewer in want of a job. If he should find Mr. Edison's case characteristic of many, and should feel the need

CURRENT TOPICS.

An influential English paper ridicules the idea that the result of the Behring Sea Arbitration can be regarded as a triumph of the principle of international arbitration. It contends that it is absurd to suppose that the two nations could have gone to war about so small a matter, and that the dispute could have been more speedily settled and better regulations drawn by a commission of representatives of the two nations. This begs the question. It assumes, in the face of the facts of history and of human nature, that great nations go to war only over great questions. When the President of the United States gave instructions to the commanders of its vessels in the North Pacific to seize sealing vessels wherever found in the Behring Sea and Lord Salisbury responded by saying in effect that they would seize British or Canadian vessels under such circumstances