

we must maintain the exclusion of fishing vessels from trade. We cannot maintain the fishing property without it. And this we will now certainly not surrender beyond what we have done without a just equivalent.

HERALD COMMISSIONER—You have certainly stated matter for much serious reflection.

DOMINION STATESMAN—Now, sir, here is a point to which we should like to draw your attention; for it shows in what a spirit of anxious, considerate friendship we have dealt with the fishermen of the United States. Under the first article of the Treaty of 1818 United States citizens may take fish on the shores of the Magdalen Islands, but cannot use the land for fishing operations. But we have, year after year, allowed them to land their boats and haul their seines and enjoy all facilities, like Canadians. This causes us no small damage and trouble, we assure you. (They come in great numbers. They are a class of people who, to put it mildly, have a great deal of animal spirit. They damage British fishermen and threaten the safety of the peaceful inhabitants considerably. The Canadian Government has had much trouble and expense in maintaining customs laws and navigation and fishery laws among these people. We might simply exclude them according to treaty law. But we let them come to Magdalen Islands and bear the extra expense and dangers. Is that unfriendly? Then, again, by the treaty American fishermen may dry and cure fish on certain of the unsettled parts of the Labrador coast. After they have been settled, so provides the treaty, the American fishermen must come to agreement with the settlers. Now, what have we done? We have positively gone beyond the treaty by assuming the guardianship of this temporary and provisional right of American fishermen, for we have only permitted settlement of the Labrador coast subject to this right of American fishermen. We have not left these, as we might have done, to the mercy or option of the inhabitants, proprietors and possessors of the ground, as the treaty provides, but we have not allowed settlement except on condition that the fishermen of the States should be allowed to use the ground as before. In fact we have turned a provisional and temporary right into a permanent one. And yet we are charged in the face of the civilized world by the foremost man in the United States with being unfriendly. Really, it is to bad. We could have done no more than we have done. We have all but surrendered our fishing rights altogether, but we must now maintain our property. It is our only basis for acquiring just reciprocal rights of com-

merce and trading with the United States. Why was the Reciprocity Treaty destroyed by the States? Under it they shared our fisheries with us equally everywhere. If it was done to punish Great Britain for the sympathy of some of her sections of society with the Southern cause, it was in effect much more injurious to American interests, both in the States and in Canada, and principally, we are firmly convinced, to the detriment of citizens of the United States themselves.

HERALD COMMISSIONER—I think that the question of the fisheries is pretty well exhausted. What about the St. Lawrence navigation?

DOMINION STATESMAN—Well, sir, I suppose we must speak seriously about the utterances of the President of the United States; but in this particular it is really very difficult to do so. The President states that "a like unfriendly disposition has been manifested on the part of Canada in the maintenance of a claim of right to exclude the citizens of the United States from the navigation of that River. We can only say that we are quite without any knowledge of any facts to which this assertion refers, or of any to which it could refer. The citizens of the States use the river as freely as we do our ourselves. But somehow or other—in our sleep perhaps—we have been doing a great injury to the people of the United States about this. We should amazingly like to know what it is. The President says, with great solemnity, that "there are eight States with 17,600,000 people upon these waters discharging into it." It is a great fact, no doubt, sir; but it has nothing to do with the navigation of the St. Lawrence. We do not think it possible for any American statesman to forget the Falls of Niagara. But it would really appear that the President of the United States has altogether overlooked for the moment the fact that the natural water way from Lake Superior to the ocean is considerably impeded by falls and rapids. Some of these are reckoned among the physical wonders of the world. We must reckon it among the political wonders of the world that an American statesman should leave them out of view. Why, sir, the water way of the St. Lawrence basin, as all the world knows, is only made navigable by canals. Do we practice exclusion? Not the least. We have built the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals on British territory at a cost of \$17,000,000, and we say, without fear of contradiction, that they are used, and always have been used, as freely by the tonnage of the United States as by our own, and the navigation of the St. Lawrence would be of no use to the States without them. There is absolutely nothing