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Sir Charles Tupper took a leading part in the negotiations.

In 1891, the Parliament of Canada by address of both Houses prayed Her Majesty to take such steps as would be necessary to denounce and terminate the provisions in the treaties with the German Zollverein and the Kingdom of Belgium, the effect of which was to prevent the British Colonies from granting lower rates of customs duties on goods the produce of the United Kingdom than those imposed on similar goods the produce of Belgium and Germany. It was declared that the treaties were incompatible with powers vested in the Parliament of Canada, and that their continuance tended to produce complications and embarrassments, as the self-governing Colonies possessed the constitutional right to define their respective fiscal relations to all foreign nations, to the Mother Country, and to each other. In reply, the Colonial Secretary (Lord Knutsford) pointed out certain difficulties which, in his opinion, would ensue from the proposed action, and no step was taken.

In 1892, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, in co-operation with the British Ambassador at Washington, conducted the negotiations which resulted in the Behring Sea Treaty. He also acted as the British agent in the subsequent arbitration at Paris in 1893.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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