

The gravity of the present condition of affairs between our two countries demands entire frankness.

I feel we stand at "the parting of the ways." In one direction I can see a well assured, steady, healthful relationship, devoid of petty jealousies and filled with the fruits of a prosperity arising out of a friendship cemented by mutual interests, and enduring because based upon justice; on the other, a career of embittered rivalries, staining our long frontier with the lines of hostility, in which victory means the destruction of an adjacent prosperity, without gain to the prevalent party—a mutual physical and moral deterioration which ought to be abhorrent to patriots on both sides, and which I am sure no two men will exert themselves more to prevent, than the parties to this unofficial correspondence.

As an intelligent observer of the current of popular sentiment in the United States, you cannot have failed to note that the disputed interpretation of the Treaty of 1818 and the action of Canadian officials towards American fishing vessels during the past season has awakened a great deal of feeling.

It behoves those who are charged with the safe conduct of the honour and interests of the respective countries by every means in their power sedulously to remove all causes of difference.

The roundabout manner in which the correspondence on the Fisheries has been necessarily (perhaps) conducted has brought us into the new fishing season, and the period of possible friction is at hand, and this admonishes us that prompt action is needed.

I am prepared, therefore, to meet the authorised agents of Great Britain at this capital at the earliest possible day, and enter upon negotiations for a settlement of all differences.

The magnitude of the interests involved, and the far-reaching and disastrous consequences of any irritating and unfriendly action, will, I trust, present themselves to those in whose jurisdiction the fisheries lie, and cause a wise abstention from vexatious enforcement of disputed powers.

Awaiting your reply,

I am, &c.,
(Signed) T. F. BAYARD.

Sir Charles Tupper,
&c., &c., &c.,
Ottawa, Canada.

Enclosure 2 in No. 193.

Sir Charles Tupper to Mr. Bayard.

Personal and Unofficial.

OTTAWA,
June , 1887.

MY DEAR MR. BAYARD,

I had great pleasure in receiving your letter of May 31st, evincing as it does the importance which you attach to an amicable adjustment of the Fisheries Question and the maintenance of the cordial relations between the United States and Canada, under which such vast and mutually beneficial interests have grown up.

I entirely concur in your statement that "we both seek to attain a just and permanent settlement, and that there is but one way to procure it, and that is by a straightforward treatment on a liberal and statesmanlike plan of the entire *commercial* relations of the two countries."

I note particularly your suggestion that as the interests of Canada are so immediately concerned, Her Majesty's Government should be invited to depute a Canadian statesman to negotiate with you "a *modus vivendi* to meet present emergencies, and also a permanent plan to avoid all disputes," and I feel no doubt that a negotiation thus undertaken would greatly increase the prospects of a satisfactory solution.

I say this not because I believe that there has been any disposition on the part of the British Government to postpone Canadian interests to its own, or to retard by needless delay a settlement desired by and advantageous to the people of Canada and of the United States, but because I have no doubt that direct personal communications will save valuable time, and render each side better able to comprehend the needs