

United States manufacturers in order to see that they would not harm their trade? This is a most regrettable incident in connection with the awards, and I am sure that every hon. gentleman in this House will be ready to share my sentiments.

It is a matter of satisfaction to the people of Canada (satisfaction which I am sure is not confined to gentlemen of any political party), that in the arbitration which has been held during the past year in reference to the Behring Sea fisheries, the contention of Canada has been so thoroughly vindicated. It is a great point that when a contention of this kind has been pronounced upon by independent arbitrators, it is found that the Government and people of Canada were right. It gives them a character commanding the respect of the nations of the earth, of which they may very well feel proud. Some of the regulations made by the arbitrators may not meet with the entire and perfect concurrence of our people, but at the same time it cannot fail to be observed that the commissioners representing the United States, with whom our great contention arose and with whom it was settled at Paris, as well as one of the commissioners representing Great Britain, dissented from these regulations: therefore, although some of our own people felt hardly in the matter, I cannot help feeling that as the representatives of the United States as well as one of our own dissented from these regulations, while all the foreign arbitrators and one of the arbitrators from Great Britain agreed with them, it may be that these regulations are after all in the general interest of the United States as well as of Canada. I do not profess to have any exact information on this subject, but the circumstance of the disagreement of the arbitrators points very strongly in that direction.

Reference is made in the Speech from the Throne to a subject which cannot fail to be of very great interest—that is a rapid mail service on the Atlantic and the Pacific. For my own part, I may say, as one who long ago advocated the principles upon which this great union of the provinces of Canada is based, I look upon more perfect communication with the mother country, entirely between our own ports, and perfect communication westward and southward from the Pacific coast to other parts of our empire, as a consummation of the great plan of confederation. Confederation will not be

fully complete until we have such perfect communication with the mother country as will not be second to any other upon the ocean. The Speech from the Throne intimates that a measure with respect to Dominion lands is about to be introduced. I do not know what that measure is to be, but I have a very lively interest in our great North-west. I have had the pleasure of making two visits to that part of Canada, and have traversed a great deal of it and I feel a deep interest in its progress. I regret very much that the tide of immigration has not set in more strongly in that direction. It was quite easy to understand that the great American nation, with the enormous inducements which they were holding out—I may be permitted to say the abnormal inducements which they were extending to the people of other countries—should draw a population to the United States and that they should be enabled to fill up their prairies before ours were occupied. They had indeed begun work long before we acquired the North-west, and the stream of immigration had set in there before we were in a position to offer lands to settlers at all. I am also aware of the fact that within the last year or two there has been an extraordinary depression in the price of wheat, that great staple of Canada, and that this circumstance has had a very serious tendency to restrict immigration to that part of the country. From what I was able to see, from the impressions I was able to form through coming into contact with the people of that great North-west, and from the observations which I made in almost every part of it, I feel convinced that there never was at any time, that there is not at the present time, anything at all to prevent active, earnest, hardworking people from going into that country and becoming successful farmers, not entirely as wheat producers, but as mixed farmers, raising all productions that the climate and the soil are adapted for, and they are very varied and numerous. I believe that the commerce of that great North-west will be very active in the future—I hope it will, for it is a magnificent country. I dare say that most of the hon. gentlemen whom I am addressing have visited that country, as I have done. If so, they must have formed a very high opinion of it. Manitoba is a magnificent province, standing in the very gateway of the North-west Territories, and it has