

“the people of Great Britain would continue much longer to sustain the obligations and responsibilities of a relationship, “all the reciprocal benefits of which had been withdrawn;” and,

*Whereas*, The foregoing expression of opinion by an eminent public man, in a high official position, is an important contribution to the knowledge of the members of this Chamber, and as it is supplemented with information from Canada, that a strong movement is in progress there favoring the closest possible commercial relations with the United States, it would seem to be the duty of this Chamber, without any regard whatever to political or territorial considerations, to investigate the possibility of a greatly enlarged extension of the commerce of this city and country into the northern half of this Continent; and,

*Whereas*, It is most desirable that the Canadian Fishery question, which for over a hundred years has periodically threatened to disturb the peaceful relations existing between Great Britain and this country, should be settled on the broad and enduring basis of a mutual interest, resulting from an enlarged commercial relation between Canada and the United States; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That a committee of five members of this Chamber be appointed by the president to investigate the possibility of a material expansion of our commerce in this direction, by inviting arguments for and against Commercial Union with Canada, and documentary evidence as to the extent and prospects of the trade between the two countries; and to report to this chamber such recommendations for its action as will enable it to contribute its influence, not only to the early adjustment of the Fishery question, but to aid in procuring such legislation as will promote the interests of the commerce of this country, should such action be deemed desirable.

The committee appointed by the President were as follows: Messrs. Francis B. Thurber, Chairman; Jackson S. Shultz, Jacob Wendell, Gustave Schwab, and James P. Wallace. In response to circulars sent out by the committee, the following, among other letters, have been received: