

(2) By the terms of the Treaty, the right to carry goods in bond through the territory of Canada and the United States respectively is secured. On our side the removal of an export duty on saw-logs and lumber cut by Maine lumbermen and floated down the River St. John, is thrown into the bargain.

(3) By the 18th article of the Treaty, the right is conceded to American fishermen to use the inshore fisheries of the Maritime Provinces in common with British subjects, except the salmon and shad fisheries in the rivers and mouths of rivers. On the part of the Americans the same rights are conceded to our fishermen to take fish on the coast of the United States north of the 39th parallel of north latitude. They agree also to admit into the United States, free of duty, the fish and fish-oil exported thither by our fishermen. It is also provided that a Commission is to be appointed by the Queen of Great Britain and the President of the United States to determine whether any and what amount of compensation is due to the Dominion for the greater value of the privileges accorded, as above, to the citizens of the United States than those accorded to the people of the Dominion. Pending the action of this Commission, the terms of the treaty in other respects go into full operation as soon as it is ratified by the Government of Great Britain, the Senate of the United States, the Parliament of Canada, and the Legislature of Prince Edward Island.

The features of the Treaty numbered 1 and 2 above, contain concessions on both sides, and accord privileges valuable to the inhabitants of both countries. We have always been willing that the Americans should use our canals, paying merely the same tolls as we pay ourselves; in fact it has been our wish and our interest to attract American trade and shipping to the St. Lawrence route, and in that we have been to a large degree successful. Besides, the question as to the St. Clair Flats Canal is settled, and we shall also have the use of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, and the right to navigate Lake Michigan. Respecting the bonding arrangements of the two countries, it cannot be otherwise than satisfactory to have them placed on the basis laid down in the Treaty.

In reference to the Fisheries, we cannot say so much. On the contrary, we do not believe that the Parliament or people of this country would ever seek—nay, would not sanction—the Treaty with the clauses relating to the fisheries in it, aside from the other questions involved, and in the settlement of which we are interested only as a part of the British empire. We are surrendering our exclusive right to a valuable property—so regarded by previous treaties, and

by Canadian and Imperial legislation—and placing the purchasers in possession without being certain that we were ever to receive as much as one cent in compensation! Would any shrewd or sensible business man dispose of property in such a manner? Unquestionably not. And it is neither equitable nor honest to ask the fishermen of these Provinces to surrender a right always recognized, while the question of compensation is at the best but hypothetical and contingent. The attempt to effect the transfer to foreigners of such valuable privileges, the exclusive heritage hitherto of our fishermen, and the only field where there perilous industry could gain them a livelihood is little short of an outrage which has excited their just indignation.

We make no account of the right to sell fish in the American markets free of duty. The American people were as much as we interested in the removal of the fish duties; and so soon as the condition of their finances would admit of it the consumers of fish in the United States would have compelled the removal of these duties. As to the right to fish on the coast of the United States, it is not worth a straw in the estimation of Canadian fishermen, and of that they are the best judges.

It is apparent, therefore, that a glaring sacrifice of Canadian interests is involved in the terms of the Treaty. While that is the fact we cannot in consequence advise its rejection under all circumstances. It may have been necessary to sacrifice Canadian for Imperial interests. If this plea is put forward in defence of the Treaty we shall admit it is a valid plea; but even in that case our fisherman will be none the less entitled to compensation. Indeed, their claim against the United States will then be entitled to the guarantee of Great Britain. If our fisheries have been bartered away in settlement of her accounts there will be no difficulty in fixing the responsibility, or applying to the right source for damages.

We have regarded the Treaty from a purely Canadian stand-point and endeavored to see how it will affect our interests. In that light we are entitled to look at it; and weighed in such a balance, it is unquestionably found wanting.

TELEGRAPHS.

The transfer of the telegraphs of Great Britain to the Government has proved to be a success—a success, that is, in comparison with the system which previously existed. The Companies had but one object, that of earning large dividends, and they pursued a policy which, whilst it no doubt had the immediate effect they desired, was narrow and

illiberal, and utterly opposed to that full development of telegraphic business which the interests of the country required.

There were a number of Companies—first as rivals, then as confederates—monopolizing the trunk lines of communication. In addition to these were a large number of other branch lines, with their own separate tariffs, generally equal, and sometimes exceeding, for insignificant distances of half a dozen miles, the charge of bringing the message over the main line for one or two hundred miles. There were also several hundred railway stations connected with the telegraphs, at which an extra charge of sixpence was demanded for portage or the station master's "fee," and the great majority of these railway stations were altogether outside the town limits, and reached only at great inconvenience. There was no uniformity of rates either on the main or branch lines, and everything seemed calculated to complicate the simple business of transmitting an ordinary message, and to render it as difficult and costly an operation as possible. When it is added that, not long before the Government took charge of the business, there were nearly a hundred towns in England and Wales alone, with populations of not less than 2,000 inhabitants, with no telegraphic facilities whatever, it will be evident that the people of Great Britain owed a very small debt of gratitude indeed to the Telegraph Companies.

The Government has done much to remedy this state of things. Already, the wires have been increased from 51,311 miles to 63,318 miles, and the number of offices open for business have increased to nearly 2,000, besides those at railway stations. Independent Press Associations to supply country papers and reading rooms with news have been established, and the amount of press news transmitted has been largely increased. The number of messages under the old system was 5,000,000 per year; under the new arrangements more than double that number, or more than 10,000,000 per annum are being transmitted. So far, the change has been successful.

Financially, however, it can scarcely be called a success as yet, whatever the result may be hereafter. The original estimate of the cost of acquiring the property of the Telegraph Companies, and of making the necessary extensions and additions, was £3,100,000 sterling. Before the arrangements were completed, however, for the transfer it was ascertained that this sum required to be more than doubled, and it is now found that the total cost to the Government before all claims are settled will amount to something over ten millions of pounds. The budget submitted to the English Parliament by the Chancellor of the