

bear on him by the Imperial Government that an Imperial officer should have the guidance of Canadian affairs, but like a true patriot that he was, ever having the interests of this country at heart, he refused stubbornly, and the Imperial Government yielded; and I have no doubt the Canadian Government, if they would pursue the same course now, would attain the same result. This is not a party question; it is most foreign from my thoughts to introduce anything of a party nature in connection with this question. I sincerely hope and trust, from this time forward, whether it be a Liberal Government or a Conservative Government that is in power, that if any friction should arise and arbitration be decided upon between this country and the United States, that Canada will insist upon managing her own affairs, because Canadians are quite capable of taking care of themselves, even against the shrewd and wily American, and I trust that this is the last we shall have of similarly constituted commissions. I forgot to draw the attention of the House to a matter which, however, has been mentioned once or twice by previous speakers, and that is that these regulations, if enforced, will only be binding and obligatory on two nations, namely, Great Britain and the United States. All others, European, Central American and Asiatic nations, flying whatever flag they may, can come in and fish right up to the territorial waters—up to the three-mile limit, and neither Great Britain nor the United States can expel them from these waters. No might will ever be exercised in that relation, so that the decision of this tribunal, while it disposed of the monstrous pretensions put forward by the United States, is not for the benefit of Great Britain and its colonies, but for the benefit of all the world.

We may put whatever construction we please on this arbitration, but as the *New York Herald* has very aptly put it—Great Britain has all the honour and glory, the United States has all the material advantages. Great Britain got the shadow, the United States the substance. It was all the material substance that she was after, and the award and regulations have given it to the United States. I cannot believe for a moment that the late Mr. Blaine, or his successors in office, were for one moment serious when they put forth their monstrous claims to the exclusive right and jurisdiction in the Behring Sea, but I suppose they

came to the conclusion that unless they asked a great deal they would get but very little. There is just another observation or two that I desire to make before I sit down, and it is with respect to some remarks that first fell from the talented hon. gentleman who moved this Address. It was in speaking of the prosperity we enjoy as compared with the condition of the neighbouring republic. He and others attributed the depression in the United States to the silver question and their insecure system of banking. There can be no doubt the silver question was a very important factor in bringing about the crisis in the United States, and it goes without saying that our banking system is vastly superior to that of the neighbouring country. I believe it is equal, probably, to any banking system in the world. While I say that, yet I am one of those who believe that it is not perfect but can be still further improved, but there are other and more important causes that led to the terrible financial crisis in the United States, and which we suffer from more or less. I attribute it wholly and solely to the high protective tariff of that country. Up to 1872 the United States collected \$13,000,000 from duties on tea alone. The revenue of the United States was increasing so rapidly that an enormous surplus was declared every year. To protect the favoured manufacturers at the expense of the great mass of the taxpayers hundreds of millions were unjustly taken, yes, stolen from the people and deposited in the treasury. The enormous accumulation became so great that the Government had to devise ways and means to dispose of it. As I have already stated, the first step taken in that direction was to take the duty off tea which amounted to \$13,000,000 annually. Speaking of tea, I would remind this House of the fact, and I have no doubt the leader of the House is fully aware of it, that in the Antipodes which he visited last year, the Australians are the greatest consumers of tea in the world. They consume per head no less than 8·14 pounds of tea. Great Britain comes second with 4·90 pounds, Canada stands third with 4·65 pounds, and the United States 1·33 pounds. The revenue collected in 1890, according to the *Statesman's Year Book*, in Great Britain on tea alone amounted to \$23,000,000. Canada retained the duty on tea until 1881 or 1882, and collected a revenue of about \$900,000. Although the Government pro-