

TERRITORIAL WATERS AND OCEAN FISHERY RIGHTS.

At the Conference of this Association last year, the proposals relating to Territorial Waters drafted for the consideration of the Institute of International Law were submitted to this Association for examination, and the friendly distinction that was drawn between the Institute and this Association was an apt allusion. The main object for defining territorial waters with accuracy is the avoidance of fishery disputes. The conflicting interests of what for brevity's sake I will term inshore and offshore fisheries are so complicated, and the welfare of both are so bound up together, that a full appreciation of the practical details of the world's fisheries is required before any proposal for the definition of territorial waters can be likely to meet with the approval of any substantial majority of the nations. Geography and natural history present hard facts which have to be met.

“All the water in the ocean
Can never turn the swan's black legs to white.”

The lesser rules the greater, and practice must point out the solution of the problem, and the golden principle, if there be one, which both the Institute and this Association are working to discover.