

to catch fish and dry them on land in that part only, and in no other besides that of the Island which stretches from Cape Bonavista to northern part of said Island, and from thence down by western side reaching as far as Point Roche."

We see nothing in this Treaty, which was confirmed by that of Versailles in 1783, which need be any serious obstacle in the way of Newfoundland joining Canada. The terms are most clearly stated, and if adhered to by France need create no trouble between that nation and the Dominion, and, if not adhered to, our territorial rights would be protected by Great Britain, by whom the Treaty was signed. Of course, it would be desirable to have all possibility of friction obviated by this Treaty being cancelled, but, looking at the question from an impartial standpoint, we are free to admit that the French may justly claim to have their rights respected, or compensation given for their abandonment, which arrangement would devolve upon Great Britain, who, if the Island came into Confederation, would still retain an interest in the Newfoundland fisheries, would continue to find the Island "a nursery for seamen," and be bound to protect the Colony from trespassing usurpations by any power. We repeat, there is no insuperable obstacle to our absorption of Newfoundland raised by the Treaty of Utrecht. In 1776 an Act passed to exclude Americans from the Island's fisheries, Canadian also being excluded. At this period "the Irish were so much concerned with Newfoundland that the bounty on the fishery then given was said to have been granted to the "Irish Newfoundland fishery." The trade with Ireland was very large, and caused a large settlement from Cork and other places to whom, and to West countrymen, says the Islands' historian, Judge Prowse, "we owe the good cultivation and picturesque homesteads around St. John's and Conception Bay." In 1803 Admiral Gambier, then Governor, urged the British Government to give Newfoundland a Legislature for its self-government, which was withheld for over 30 years. Complaints now were bitter that the merchants tyrannized over the fishermen by grossly unfair dealings. They bought fish at the price they fixed and sold goods in exchange also at their own price. There was no open market and no competition. This "truck system" has been a great curse to Newfoundland for generations. It yet exists in the Island, as it does in England, in spite of the law which imposes a penalty upon payments in "truck." We are fully satisfied that one of the great benefits to Newfoundland which would come from its union with Canada would be the entire abolition of this abominable system, as there would soon be established more business-like, more equitable arrangements for conducting the trade between the fishermen and the merchants who supply them with goods and with capital on terms which keep the fishermen in deep poverty. Were the Island part of Canada these brave fellows would be in such close touch with the Government and with the mercantile life of this country

that their grievances would be publicly heard and a remedy would soon be applied.

Already the Island has been blessed enormously by the introduction of branches of Canadian banks, the pioneer being the Bank of British North America in 1836. The help given by the Bank of Montreal in the time of the financial distress a few years ago is well known. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that Newfoundland owes a debt of gratitude to Canadian banks and capitalists far greater than it does for any service rendered by the traders or financiers of the Old Country. In 1824 a Supreme Court was established, and in 1855 Responsible Government. The above is a brief outline of the Island's history up to modern times. Details of the endless fightings off shore up to a century ago will be found graphically told in Judge Prowse's work and other histories. The story is full of romance. It tells of almost incredible blunders by the home authorities, of tyrannies, and of gallant deeds by naval commanders, of fleecings and neglect, and strivings for justice and trade expansion by Governors and other English officials. The record is not honourable to England's rulers, who seem to have had not a care for this Colony beyond getting the treasures of the sea at any cost to the fishermen and any sacrifice of the Island's welfare. Newfoundlanders if they have any ambition to advance in political freedom, in social rank, in financial strength and independence, will seek to hasten the day when their destinies will be linked with this Dominion as an integral, honoured and welcomed member of the Canadian family!

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.—The intervention which would have prevented the expansion of this Republic may or may not be attempted to check the designs of England. That will depend a good deal on the apparent hazard of the enterprise, and the possibility of securing entire agreement among those who may insist on being parties to it. In any case, it is not the kind of intervention which this country can afford to applaud. For all time the future of the race with which we are most closely allied is ours, and one-half of the English-speaking family cannot be compelled to bend to the dictates of its natural enemies without impairing the strength and influence of the other. The success of an anti-English league would greatly simplify the success of an anti-American league, which was a favorite topic in the European press less than two years ago. Whatever amount of sympathy may be felt for the cause of the Boers, the fact should be frankly recognized that England is doing in South Africa the work of civilization—a work which could not well be longer deferred. It is certainly part of the work which is destined to bring about that dominance of the English-speaking race which is best for the good of mankind, and in which we ourselves can no more help being in our special sphere, participants, than we can turn back the shadow on the dial of time.—New York "Commercial Bulletin."