

ment there is no substantial difference in the construction of the privilege of the Treaty of 1871, and that, in the future, the Colonial regulation of the fisheries, with which, as far as their own interests are concerned, we have neither right nor desire to intermeddle, will not be allowed to modify or affect the rights which have been guaranteed to citizens of the United States.

You will therefore say to Lord Salisbury that the Government of the United States considers that the engagements of the Treaty of 1871 contravened by the local legislation of Newfoundland, by the prohibition of the use of seines, by the closing of the fishery with seines between October and April, by the forbidding of fishing for the purpose of exportation between December and April, by the prohibition to fish on Sunday, by the allowance of nets of only a specified mesh, and by the limitation of the area of fishing between Cape Ray and Cape Chapeau Rouge. Of course, this is only upon the supposition that such laws are considered as applying to United States' fishermen. As local regulations for native fishermen, we have no concern with them. The contravention consists in excluding United States' fishermen during the very times in which they have been used to pursue this industry, and forbidding the methods by which alone it can profitably be carried on. The exclusion of the time from October to April covers the only season in which frozen herring can be procured, while the prohibition of the seines would interfere with the vessels, who, occupied in cod fishing during the summer, go to Fortune Bay in the winter, and would consequently have to make a complete change in their fishing gear, or depend entirely upon purchase from the natives for their supply. The prohibition of work on Sunday is impossible under the conditions of the fishery. The vessels must be at Fortune Bay at a certain time, and leave for market at a certain time. The entrance of the shoals of herring is uncertain, and the time they stay equally so. Whenever they come they must be caught, and the evidence in this very case shows that after Sunday, the 6th of January, there was no other influx of these fish, and that prohibition on that day would have been equivalent to shutting out the fishermen for the season.

If I am correct in the views hitherto expressed, it follows that the United States' Government must consider the United States' fishermen as engaged in a lawful industry, from which they were driven by lawless violence, at great loss and damage to them, and that as this was in violation of rights guaranteed by the Treaty of Washington between Great Britain and the United States, they have reasonable ground to expect, at the hands of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, proper compensation for the loss they have sustained. The United States' Government, of course, desires to avoid an exaggerated estimate of the loss, which has actually sustained, but thinks you will find the elements for a fair calculation in the sworn statement of the owners, copies of which are herewith sent.

You will find in the printed pamphlet which accompanies this, and which is the statement submitted to this Department on behalf of twenty of the vessels, the expense of each vessel in preparation for the fishery and her estimated loss and damage. The same statement with regard to the two vessels "New England" and "Ontario," not included in this list of twenty, you will find attached hereto, thus making a complete statement for the twenty-two vessels which were in Fortune Bay on the 6th January, 1878, and the Government of the United States sees no reason to doubt the accuracy of these estimates. I find upon examining the testimony of one of the most intelligent of the Newfoundland witnesses called before the Halifax Commission by the British Government, Judge Bennett, formerly Speaker of the Colonial House, and himself largely interested in the business, that he estimates the Fortune Bay business in frozen herring, in the former years of purchase, at 20,000 to 25,000 barrels for the season, and that it was increasing, and this is confirmed by others. The evidence in this case shows that the catch which the United States' fishing fleet had on this occasion actually realized was exceptionally large, and would have supplied profitable cargoes for all of them. When to this is added the fact that the whole winter was lost, and these vessels compelled to return home in ballast, that this violence had such an effect upon this special fishery that in the winter of 1878-79 it has been almost entirely abandoned, and the former fleet of twenty-six vessels has been reduced to eight, none of whom went provided with seines, but were compelled to purchase their fish of the inhabitants of Newfoundland, the United States' Government is of opinion that 105,305.02 dollars may be presented as an estimate of the loss as claimed, and you will consider that amount as being what this Government will regard as adequate compensation for loss and damage.

In conclusion, I would not be doing justice to the wishes and opinions of the