

I understand the main purpose of your letter is to suggest that, in case recourse to the retaliatory measures authorized by this act should be invited by unjust treatment of our fishermen in the future, the object of such retaliation might be fully accomplished by "prohibiting Canadian-caught fish from entry into the ports of the United States."

The existing controversy is one in which two nations are the parties concerned. The retaliation contemplated by the act of Congress is to be enforced, not to protect solely any particular interest, however meritorious or valuable, but to maintain the national honor and thus protect all our people. In this view the violation of American fishery rights and unjust or unfriendly acts towards a portion of our citizens engaged in this business is but the occasion for action, and constitutes a national affront which gives birth to or may justify retaliation. This measure once resorted to, its effectiveness and value may well depend upon the thoroughness and extent of its application; and in the performance of international duties, the enforcement of international rights, and the protection of our citizens, this Government and the people of the United States must act as a unit, all intent upon attaining the best result of retaliation upon the basis of a maintenance of national honor and duty.

The nation seeking by any means to maintain its honor, dignity, and integrity, is engaged in protecting the rights of the people; and if, in such efforts, particular interests are injured and special advantages forfeited, these things should be patriotically borne for the public good. An immense volume of population, manufactures and agricultural productions, and the marine tonnage and railways to which these have given activity, all largely the result of intercourse between the United States and British America, and the natural growth of a full half century of good neighborhood and friendly communication, form an aggregate of material wealth and incidental relation of most impressive magnitude. I fully appreciate these things, and am not unmindful of the great number of our people who are concerned in such vast and diversified interests.

In the performance of the serious duty which Congress has imposed upon me, and in the exercise, upon just occasion, of the power conferred under the act referred to, I shall deem myself bound to inflict no unnecessary damage or injury upon any portion of our people; but I shall, nevertheless, be unflinchingly guided by a sense of what the self-respect and dignity of the nation demand. In the maintenance of these and in the support of the honor of the Government, beneath which every citizen may repose in safety, no sacrifice of personal or private interests shall be considered as against the general welfare.

Yours, very truly,

GROVER CLEVELAND.

GEORGE STEELE,

*President American Fishery Union, and others,*

*Gloucester, Mass.*

From this letter, to which the minority of the committee refer with great satisfaction, as a correct exposition of the duties that Congress has imposed upon the President in the enforcement of our laws of retaliation, it will be seen that the present administration will treat this