

(On Dr. Tupper being asked whether these American fishing vessels were within the headlands, he replied that he could not speak as to that; but that the question was altogether a captious one, for it was well known that the headland limit had not been enforced for years.)

The mere fact of bounties being necessary to enable Americans to compete with the Canadians proved the advantageous position enjoyed by the latter. It should be remembered that the commercial marine of Canada amounted to a million tons; and whether in connection with the fishery or the shipbuilding interest, the value to Canada of the Washington Treaty could not be overlooked.

The feeling in Nova Scotia was this, that no greater wrong could be inflicted on the population of that island than by withholding the Treaty of Washington, which promoted and protected their great national industries without injuring a single interest or being counterbalanced by a single drawback.

*Mr. Campbell* said that under the operation of the system that had prevailed since the repeal of the Treaty of 1854, the fishermen of Nova Scotia had, to a great extent, become the fishermen of the United States. They had been forced to abandon their vessels and homes in Nova Scotia and ship to American ports, there to become engaged in aiding the commercial enterprises of that country. It was a melancholy feature to see thousands of young and hardy fishermen compelled to leave their native land to embark in the pursuits of a foreign country, and drain their own land of that aid and strength which their presence would have secured. While Nova Scotia had mechanics who were able to build vessels that would compete in every important respect with those built by our American neighbours, the commercial impediments thrown in the way of Americans fishing in Canadian waters had an injurious effect upon the shipbuilding interest. It had been said that the concessions obtained by the Dominion were not equivalent to those which were granted to the United States. He regarded the privileges granted to Canadians to resort to American waters for the purpose of procuring bait as being of great importance. He believed that to be a very valuable and important concession. By the Treaty of 1818 American fishing-vessels were not permitted to enter our harbours except for the purpose of obtaining wood, water, and shelter. This limitation had produced a good deal of dissatisfaction and did injustice to our shore population. During the continuance of the Reciprocity Treaty, American vessels were constantly in our waters, engaged in a mutually advantageous business with the merchants who lived on shore. Both parties desired a renewal of that relation, which would be decidedly to the advantage of Nova Scotia.

*Mr. Macdonald* stated that the county he represented (Luvenburg) was deeply interested in the Fishery question. The people of that county owned 632 boats, employing upwards of 800 men engaged in the inshore fisheries, 89 schooners, many of them first-class vessels, engaged exclusively in the deep-sea fisheries, and employing nearly 1,000 men, besides 147 other vessels, some of which were at times partially dependent upon the fisheries for employment; but there were nearly 2,000 men who, with their families, derived their living mainly, if not wholly, from the fishing business. The fishing-vessels generally fitted out in spring for Labrador or the Banks, returning about the middle of July or the 1st of August with a fare of codfish, and then fitted out a second time for the hook-and-line mackerel fishing in the bay. High duties levied on fish in the United States' markets killed the mackerel fishing trade in Luvenburg county. Last year (1871) nearly all the fine fleet of vessels above described, after returning from Labrador, instead of going out again for mackerel, were compelled to lay for the remainder of the season idly swinging at their anchors in the harbours and coves around the coast, while the young men who should have formed their fishing crews were either compelled to remain at home or seek other employment elsewhere, some of them, perhaps, on board American vessels, where the fish caught would be worth more than if taken on board their own vessels because they would be free of duty under the American flag. It was thus of vital importance to the fishing people of that county that the Fishery Articles of the Treaty of Washington should be ratified, because they believed—and he judged they rightly believed—that they would be placed on a much better footing than they occupied at the present time. In 1853, the year before the commencement of the Reciprocity Treaty, the total value of the products of the fisheries in Nova Scotia was something less than 2,000,000 dollars, of which only about 30 per cent., or less than 582,000 dollars' worth found a market in the United States. In 1865 the total yield of the fisheries had risen, with various fluctuations, to an aggregate of nearly 3,500,000 dollars, and it was found that the export to the United States had not only kept pace with that aggregate increase but had largely exceeded it, the exports to