

These three men had been engaged season after season in the manufacture of cheese. They were expert, and two or three parties had insisted that the sub-collector should order these men to leave at once, if they were not permanent residents. He said, "I will not take any action unless I am compelled by the Department at Washington." I visited Clayton then and that terminated my visit. I might state this much, I found a feeling of disquiet and unrest existing strongly. The employers of labor I interviewed said that they were placed in an awkward fix. They said they were liable at any moment to have a penalty of \$1,000 enforced against them, and rather than that risk, they had been compelled to discharge very worthy men, men they had engaged with them for years, men who were sober men. I had a conversation with the hotel keepers at the Bay and the merchants, and they frankly admitted that were the Canadian fishery laws enforced and the Americans prevented from coming into Canadian waters to fish they might as well close up their hotels and their businesses, because every one who knows anything of the St. Lawrence knows that the hotels are on the other side of the river but the fishing is in Canadian waters altogether. I know from my official capacity as collector of Customs that there is scarcely a day which passes from the 4th July until the first week in September that there won't be, perhaps, three, four or five steam tugs with as many as eight skiffs in tow of each.

*By Mr. Earle :*

85. Fishing?—Coming in to Canadians waters—yes. I represented to those people that the enforcement of the Customs law, even compelling those steamers to pay entrance and clearance fees, would affect them. All we ask now, is a report of courtesy, and the result is that they pay no fees. Shortly after making my report, what perhaps aided in bringing about a better state of affairs was the proclamation issued by the member for South Leeds. I know it had a wonderful effect. It clearly intimated to the Americans that the enforcement of the Alien Labor Law would result in the enforcement of the Fishery and Customs Laws, and the result was that the hotel keepers and merchants realized that they must do something and the effect was that the Canadians were allowed to return and resume their ordinary position.

86. They have been doing so since?—Yes. I may state this fact that that feeling of disquiet and unrest exists now, and whether a similar proclamation will be necessary this summer, to keep them in that state of feeling, I do not know. Something, I think, ought to be done.

*By Mr. Taylor :*

87. You state that you found that the Customs officers and merchants were not in sympathy with the Act over on the other side?—Well, from my conversation with them, I should judge so.

88. But they assured you they were bound to enforce it?—Yes, in that Bouch case, collector Harrison said that he never did any more contemptible thing.

*By Dr. Ferguson :*

89. In that case they not only enforced the law under contracts made in a foreign country but they enforced it under a contract made in the United States with an outsider?—The decision of the Solicitor of the Treasury was a most elaborate document. That solicitor held that a man had gone to Ogdensburg without making an engagement; he made an engagement on the other side and returned with his clothes, and when he arrived at Ogdensburg he was compelled to leave the country again.

*By Dr. Wilson :*

90. Have you any other case than the Bouch case?—Oh, there are numerous cases.

91. Are there any other cases that you know of where they have been refused the right to remain in the States—of your own personal knowledge? Have you any other case except the one you mentioned?—Other persons have been sent back from Ogdensburg. I understand this from collector Harrison himself.