to that communication you will find that what he did put forward was this: that if the Americans would come in without either paying a license fee or giving any other compensation at all for our fisheries, and if they fished in our territorial waters where the fish were to be taken, side by side with our own fishermen, and then carried their catch into the American market free of duty, while our fishermen, fishing on the same terms, and with no better appliances, were met there with a duty of 2 dollars a barrel on mackerel and 1 dollar on herring, it would necessarily be ruinous. And that proposition, no doubt, has a vast deal of truth in it. It is impossible, I assume, for two persons to fish upon equal terms in the same waters, and then, when they go into the American market, for one to be met by a duty while the other has no such duty to pay, without it operating to the disadvantage of the former. But that it is a totally different case from the one we have to deal with.

I shall show you, as I have said, that during the period of the Reciprocity Treaty the prices were low, and that the moment that Treaty was repealed or abrogated by notice from the American Government, the prices rose. That the moment that state of affairs was terminated by the Washington Treaty the prices fell again; and we say that is conclusive proof that the Americans have to pay the duty. There has been a consensus of testimony, American and British, upon that point.

Let us see what the American witnesses say, for I affirm that on both sides the witnesses agree in the statement that the consumers pay the duty. It is true that American witnesses, who are themselves fishermen, or those who speak the opinion of fishermen, say that they would prefer the old state of things. Why? Because, under that state of things, they could steal into our waters and carry off our fish for nothing, and then their British competitor was met in the market with a duty of 2 dollars a barrel, while they were free. But I apprehend the consumer did not want that state of affairs. These witnesses admitted that it made the fish dearer, whenever the question was put to them. I have cut out the evidence referring to this point, and I will read it:—

AMERICAN WITNESSES ON DUTIES.

Page 75—F. Freeman:—

"Q. If you were allowed to make your choice which would you take—exclusion from the British inshore fisheries and the imposition of a duty on colonial caught fish, or the privilege of fishing inshore in British waters and no duty?—A. I would rather have the duty.

"Q. You say you would rather have the duty paid; you think you would make more money; you are speaking as a fisherman?—A. Yes.

"Q. You would have a better market for your fish? Under the present system the consumer gets his fish cheaper, does he not? *You would make the consumer pay that 2 dollars duty? You would sell your fish 2 dollars higher?*—A. Yes.

Mr. Trescot.—That is political economy.
Mr. Thomson.—Why did you ask him?
Mr. Trescot.—I asked him simply which system he would prefer.
Mr. Thomson.—I am asking him why?

"Q. And you say the reason is that you would get so much money in your pocket at the expense of the people that eat fish. Is not that the whole story?—A. Certainly.

Page 93—N. Freeman:—

"Q. Were you among those who opposed or favoured the continuance of the Reciprocity Treaty?—A. I was among those that opposed it.

"Q. There were some that opposed it or rather required the duty to be maintained upon codfish?—A. I was one who preferred to have the duty retained upon codfish.

"Q. Upon codfish?—A. Yes.

"Q. Your people wished in fact to keep the duty on codfish?—A. Yes.

"Q. Why? Be kind enough to state why?—A. Because we felt it would be better for us as a cod-fishing town to exclude as far as possible the fish from the Provinces. *It would give us a better chance, as we supposed, to dispose of our fish at higher rates.*

"Q. And the effect of the Treaty you considered would be to reduce the price?—A. We supposed that the effect of the Treaty would be to bring in codfish from these Provinces into our port, and of course necessarily it was presumed that it would reduce the price of fish.

"Q. I suppose the mackerel fishermen have the same object, to keep up the price of fish?—A. I presume they have.

"Q. Then, of course, you think your views are correct. You think now, I presume that your opinion was correct?—A. Yes.

"Q. And you still continue to think that is correct, and that the effect of the provisions of the Treaty is to bring down the price of fish?—A. Yes, I think that is the tendency. I am not aware whether it has brought the prices down.