

precedents can be found of instructions given by the Departments to their subordinates under the signature of the President. I am sure no example can be found in our history, and I think none is likely to occur again, of an Executive straining his powers and departing from the propriety of his station to prevent an accession of skilled seamen to America like that which England and France so eagerly strove to gain at the close of the last century. They look at the thing very differently across the border. When Vice-Admiral Wellesley was in command of the North American fleet, he considered it his duty to call the special attention of the secretary of the admiralty to their danger, from the fact that colonial fishermen in considerable numbers man American vessels. Sir John A. Macdonald declared that—

The Canadian Government view with very serious concern the effect upon our maritime population of such dependence upon American employers. It creates sympathy with foreign sentiments and institutions, and affords opportunities for instilling into the minds of our people ideas and expectations altogether inimical to British connection.

These men, Mr. President, come here to abide. They are not peons or coolies. They are not the property of anybody. They are in the way of nobody. They are not imported to bring down or to keep down the wages of other laborers. On the contrary, they enable the calling in which they find employment to be more widely extended, and to afford occupation for many others, who might not get it without them. The President's shaft is aimed at the wrong mark. Among the best and most valued citizens on the Massachusetts coast, in Gloucester, in Marblehead, in Provincetown, are to be found many of these brave and skillful mariners, whom our policy in regard to our fisheries has attracted from the British provinces to take their lot under the American flag.

There are three sources of information later than the United States census of 1880 from which we can discover the number and the nationality of our fishermen. Massachusetts took a census in 1885 in which these numbers appear in the schedule of population and also in a special report on her fisheries. The United States Fishery Commission have gathered the statistics for 1886.

The Massachusetts fishery report gives 14,676 fishermen engaged in the fishing vessels of Massachusetts. Of these, 11,743 were residents of Massachusetts; 2,933 were non-residents of Massachusetts; and of these non-residents 998 were Americans. Of the whole 14,676 there were 12,741 either having their homes in Massachusetts or American residents in other States.

On the other hand the table of population shows a total of 7,980 fishermen, of whom 5,433 are native or naturalized Americans. Of the aliens 138 are Irishmen. But 1,158 are natives of England or her dependencies other than Ireland.

Professor Baird estimates the number of persons employed in our fisheries in 1880 as 131,426. Of these 101,684 were Americans. The value of the fisheries of the sea, the great rivers, and great lakes was over \$43,000,000. The fisheries of New England engaged 37,043 men. The South Atlantic States engaged 52,418 men; the Middle States, 14,931 men; the Pacific States and Territories, 16,803. (See Appendix D.)

I insert the table (A) at the close of my remarks. I insert also (B) a letter from the Commissioner of Fisheries with his estimate for 1886, and (C) a table from the census of 1880. From these it will seem probable that the truth is somewhere between the Massachusetts population and fisheries census. The proportion of American fisher-