

Let me call your attention to the other side of that Bay, and to the attention bestowed to that part of the Province of Nova Scotia by my learned friend, Mr. Weatherbe. If you look at the map you will find St. Mary's Bay on the South Westernmost corner of Nova Scotia, on the Eastern shore of the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. From Cape Split near the Head of the Bay of Fundy follow down the Eastern shore of that Bay to Brier Island at the very extremity of Digby Neck a strip of rocky soil averaging one or two miles in width which forms the barrier between the Bay of Fundy and St. Mary's Bay, a bay six miles in width at Petite Passage. From Brier Island go to the head of St. Mary's Bay 30 miles and follow the sinuosities of the opposite coast to its mouth and proceed southwardly along the shores of the old French settlement of Clare towards Barrington—that ancient town which was founded by fishermen from Cape Cod, who settled there with their families in 1763. Here is a coast line on the Western part of Nova Scotia, 250 or 300 miles including the whole length of Digby and Annapolis Counties, with the finest zones and currents and temperature on the globe for a great fishing ground—swarming within three miles of the shore as you will find by turning to the 413th page of the British evidence with *codfish, haddock, pollock, halibut, herring and mackerel*. In 24 hours, with the *Speedwell*, Professor Baird would extend the list of edible fish very much. It is true we did not call witnesses from every part of this coast. It would have occupied too much time. We did, however, produce sufficient evidence. Take Brier and Long Islands,—about 14 miles in their entire coast line. These Islands are within about five or six hours sail of the United States, and will in a few months be almost connected by rail—after you cross St. Mary's Bay—with Halifax. The Inspector of Fisheries at Brier Island, Holland C. Payson, who was cross-examined by Mr. Dana, has carefully collected information. The people of these two islands alone catch \$200,000 worth of fish annually. It would be fair to put the catch of that entire coast at three millions and a half. Ezra Turner from Maine, whose testimony is to be found on page 235 of the American evidence, and who has fished in the British waters for 30 or 40 years, swore that Maine is bankrupt in the fisheries from end to end. This is corroborated by a number of American witnesses, and by the official records of the nation.

In the American answer, it is claimed that the poor people of our fishing villages are saved from destitution by the American fishermen. Mr. Payson and Mr. Ruggles—the latter a descendant of the celebrated General Ruggles—say their people do not pay a cent of poor tax. The almost destitute fishermen from the bleak coasts of Maine, and from New England, since the *Treaty of Washington*, during the last four years through these friendly neighboring coasts of ours, and from these two Islands alone they carry away annually from one-third to one-fourth as many fish as are caught by the inhabitants—say \$50,000 worth. They come with small vessels, which they haul up or anchor, and they establish themselves on the shore, and carry on these fisheries side by side with their Canadian brethren. This exercise of the right is gradually growing annually.

These American fishermen admit their distressed condition at home, and the great advantages they enjoy by access to our coasts. These fisheries of ours, with those on the New Brunswick shore, including the Grand Manan, are a great blessing to our neighbors. This is no fancy picture. Here is a list of the Affidavits, filed to establish the facts. Here are the facts from fourteen men, whose statements could have been fully sifted:—

The statements of Holland C. Payson and Mr. Ruggles as to the value and extent of the fisheries in the Bay of Fundy, and the southern coast of Nova Scotia, are corroborated by the affidavits of—

- 155.—Joseph D. Payson, Westport, Digby County.
- 207.—Livingston Collins, “ “
- 218.—Wallace Trask, Little River, “
- 218.—Geo. E. Mosely, Tiverton, “
- 220.—Gilbert Merrit, Sandy Cove, “
- 221.—Joseph E. Denton, Little River, “
- 221.—John McKay, Tiverton, “
- 222.—Whitfield Outhouse, Tiverton, “
- 222.—John W. Snow, Digby, “
- 223.—James Patterson Foster, Port Williams, Annapolis.
- 223.—Byron P. Ladd, Yarmouth, Yarmouth.
- 225.—Samuel M. Ryerson. “ “
- 240.—Thomas Milner, Parker's Cove, Annapolis.
- 240.—James W. Cousins, Digby Town, Digby.

More than seven weeks before the United States agent closed his case, we produced two of the most intelligent and respectable men in the district. While Mr. Dana was cross-examining them, his countrymen were on the shores of Digby fishing with their vessels. A messenger in a few hours could have detected any exaggeration in their statements. From that hour to the end of their case not one word of all that evidence has been contradicted or shaken. These New England fishermen continue, under the *Treaty of Washington*, to pursue their ancient calling, and their number is increasing on the western and southern shores of Nova Scotia and at Grand Manan, and all around the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. Dana calls this practical pursuit of the fisheries in British waters, a franchise, an incorporeal faculty. Call it what you will, is it not a great advantage to his countrymen? Is it not the salvation of the State of Maine? Is it not affording an increasing number of Americans safe and steady employment? These fisheries do not fail. I invite the careful attention of the Commission to pages 399 and 412 of the British evidence. Are these fisheries not supplying cheap and wholesome food to citizens of the United States? Is it not making hardy sailors of her stalwart sons? Mr. Dana can appreciate that. Mr. Foster says he fails to find any evidence, except as to the Bend of P. E. Island and Margaree. Can you, “pencil in hand,” measure by arithmetic the benefit of the right of fishing to the people of a whole coast, who have been trained to no other pursuit, and whose families are dependent on the return of the boats from Brier Island and the other coast of Nova Scotia?