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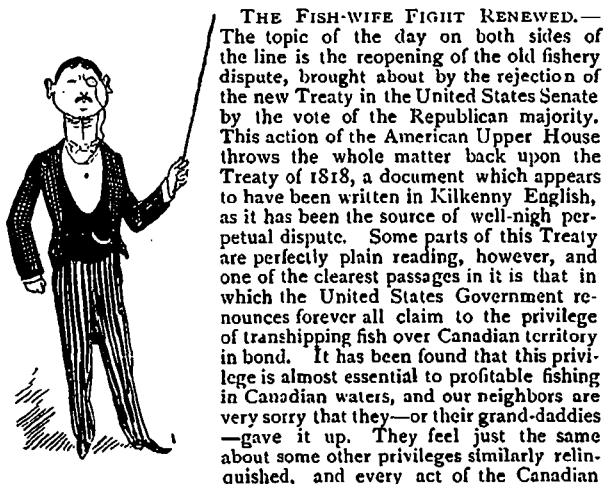
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### Comments on the Customs.



THE FISH-WIFE FIGHT RENEWED.—The topic of the day on both sides of the line is the reopening of the old fishery dispute, brought about by the rejection of the new Treaty in the United States Senate by the vote of the Republican majority. This action of the American Upper House throws the whole matter back upon the Treaty of 1818, a document which appears to have been written in Kilkenny English, as it has been the source of well-nigh perpetual dispute. Some parts of this Treaty are perfectly plain reading, however, and one of the clearest passages in it is that in which the United States Government renounces forever all claim to the privilege of transshipping fish over Canadian territory in bond. It has been found that this privilege is almost essential to profitable fishing in Canadian waters, and our neighbors are very sorry that they—or their grand-daddies—gave it up. They feel just the same about some other privileges similarly relinquished, and every act of the Canadian

Government of late years in the line of making American fishermen live up to the agreement of 1818 is resented as “unneighborliness,” “churlishness,” and “aggression.” We have done no more than defend our plain rights, but we have been unable to do so without seeming harsh, it appears. Well, we have always been willing to have the old Treaty revised, and a nicer one for Uncle Sam put in its place. We thought the Chamberlain document should have suited him, as it conceded nearly everything he had

asked for, and it is not our fault if, for party purposes or otherwise, his Senate rejected it. As the President has said, the new Treaty was a fair and just one, fully conserving the honor and dignity of the United States. Under it the privilege of transshipping fish in bond was restored, on condition of the free admission of Canadian fish and fish-oil into the American market; and other coveted privileges were granted on equally fair conditions. But the Treaty was cast out. And what now? Why, the President, anticipating a renewal of the “unneighborliness,” “churlishness,” etc., has asked Congress and Senate to empower him to punish us for refusing to allow the bonding of American fish, by suspending the privilege we now enjoy of bonding general merchandise through the United States, which privilege we reciprocate by allowing the bonding of general American merchandise through Canada. Upon another point he also proposes to retaliate—in the matter of canal tolls; and here we candidly confess he has a just grievance. We mutually agreed to the use of the canals on equal terms by the vessels of both countries. In the face of this our Government has lately been discriminating in favor of vessels going *via* the Welland Canal through the St. Lawrence canals by granting them a rebate of eighteen cents out of the twenty cents per ton charged as toll. This cannot be defended except by a mean sort of casuistry; so, while standing firmly by the Canadian case as pertaining to the fisheries, GRIP earnestly advises that our Government lose no time in returning to perfect good faith as respects the canals. This talk of “retaliation” is surely poor stuff for the latter part of the nineteenth century, and especially between two Saxon peoples. If the President carries out his purpose he will injure his own country about as much as ours; but it is high time, if civilization is not indeed a failure, that this desire to injure each other should be counted unworthy and brutal. Nothing would go further to banish such barbarism than continental Free Trade; statesmen will begin to consider this when Protectionism gives place to common sense.

MORE IN POLICY THAN IN ANGER.—At this writing the President has not received the authority he has asked for as a preliminary to retaliation against Canada. Presuming that he will get and use it—and for one, GRIP has no doubt on either point—he knows right well that the measure will inflict serious injury on the United States, and for this he would be sincerely sorry if he were not so sure that the people will put the whole blame on the Republicans, and vote accordingly. He would be almost equally sorry to do an injury to Canada, we may well believe, as “retaliation” is really not in accord with his natural taste. But it can't be helped, under the circumstances. The Republicans *must* be dished. Let us all understand this clearly, and when our Prime Minister is metaphorically kicked as the representative of the Dominion, it will mitigate our pain to know that the kick, though formally delivered on our body, is really intended for Blaine of Maine.

IF a parent is known by the appearance of his grown-up daughters, it is a hard case for some Toronto fathers and mothers. When the young lady comes down street with her hair bleached canary color—though everybody knows it is in reality black or brown—her face daubed over with paint and powder, and her waist and feet pinched almost to the point of stopping the circulation of the blood, the observer does not bestow any thought on the manifest ninny herself, but at once begins to conjecture what sort of parents she can have. He is apt to conclude that they are fools, or at all events the one that rules the home is. A few years ago it was only the brazen and abandoned members of the *demi monde* who were ever known to appear in public in such a guise, and young ladies of respectable families never thought of imitating their fashions. Parents would not permit such imitation now if they had any regard either for their daughters or themselves. And on this hypothesis we must conclude that there are lawyers, merchants, doctors, and even clergymen in this city who have mighty little sense.

\* \* \*

SUMMER is on its last kick. We know this because the excursion steamers have stopped running to the lakeside parks; the big exhibition is in full bloom, and the coal combine has just given another turn to its little squeezing machine.