

in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, or on the high seas, but to prevent them from using the British territory for purposes connected with the fishery, and to exclude their fishing-vessels from the harbours, bays, rivers and creeks of all Her Majesty's Possessions. Orders were also given to the British naval officers on the Halifax Station to resist any encroachment on the part of American fishermen on the rights of Great Britain. The result was the capture of several American fishing-vessels for trespassing within British waters; and the President of the United States in 1818 proposed to the Prince Regent that negotiations should be opened for the purpose of settling in an amicable manner disputed points which had arisen connected with the Fisheries. Commissioners were accordingly appointed by both parties to meet in London, and the Convention of 20th October, 1818, was eventually signed.

Signature of Convention of 1818.

Article I of this Convention is in these words:—

“Whereas differences have arisen respecting the liberty claimed by the United States for the inhabitants thereof to take, dry, and cure fish on certain coasts, bays, harbours and creeks of His Britannick Majesty's dominions in America, it is agreed between the High Contracting Parties that the inhabitants of the said United States shall have, forever, in common with the subjects of His Britannick Majesty, the liberty to take fish of every kind on that part of the southern coast of Newfoundland which extends from Cape Ray to the Rameau Islands, on the western and northern coast of Newfoundland, from the said Cape Ray to the Quirpon Islands, on the shores of the Magdalen Islands, and also on the coasts, bays, harbours, and creeks from Mount Joly, on the southern coast of Labrador, to and through the Straits of Belle Isle, and thence northwardly indefinitely along the coast, without prejudice however to any of the exclusive rights of the Hudson Bay Company; and that the American fishermen shall also have liberty, forever, to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours, and creeks of the southern part of the coast of Newfoundland, hereabove described, and of the coast of Labrador; but so soon as the same or any portion thereof shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such portion so settled, without previous agreement for such purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors, or possessors of the ground. And the United States hereby renounce forever, any liberty heretofore