

mon sense seems to point to the necessity of enforcing ordinary regulations as to what are and what are not fair appliances for fishing at different seasons of the year. Such regulations are, I believe, in force in Canada, and, indeed, more or less, in the fisheries of every civilized country in the world.

It must be borne in mind that the old consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland apply for the most part to regulations of this description, and do not in fact provide, as the United States' Government appear to think, that herring cannot be taken at all between the 20th October and the 12th April. It is only the use of a *seine* at those times in herring catching, which, for the preservation of the herring fry, is forbidden. This period being now extended by the Statute of 1876 to the 25th April.

It is apparent that whilst immunity from such restrictions might possibly serve the United States' fishermen by giving them quicker and larger profits, the permission to disregard them must speedily ruin the fisheries, and take away the very means of subsistence from the fishermen of the coast, who are entirely dependent for a living on an ample supply of bait. The matter, therefore, is one of the most vital importance to the natives of the island.

It may seem strange that although the provisions of the Treaty of Washington have been in force about five years, this question should now arise apparently for the first time. A reference, however, to what took place before the Halifax Commission in 1877, may serve as a clue.

It was proved in evidence before the Commission that, up to that date, United States' fishermen had been in the habit of procuring their bait on the Newfoundland coast almost exclusively by one of two methods; either they bought it of native fishermen; or they hired natives, for pay, to catch it for them. It was a very great exception to catch it entirely for themselves. The British Counsel argued, that no matter by what means bait was obtained, compensation ought to be paid for the privilege under the description of a right of fishing. This view, however, being challenged by the United States' Counsel, the Commission decided