

or where they please at the Magdalen Islands, and they are about the best fishing grounds in the Dominion. The Americans, then, need care very little for any privileges that we might have the power to withhold from them, which would amount to but a few miles of an inshore mackerel fishery, in return for which the markets of the entire United States were thrown open to us free for all the fish and products of the fisheries of the whole Dominion. The advantages of the Washington Treaty to us were great. We shall not be put to the great expense and greater responsibility of protecting our fishing interests, and we shall cement the friendship and make good customers of 40,000,000 of people.

*Dr. Tupper.*—The question of the fisheries had been for sixty years a constant source of irritation to England since the War of 1812. It was high time to settle it. The free entry of fish and fish-oil into the United States was no insignificant boon to Canada. In the small Province of Nova Scotia alone the total catch of fish in 1871 amounted to over 5,000,000 dollars, the duty of which would be upwards of 600,000 dollars. The remission of such duties was of great importance. Everybody knew that the right of the Americans to fish in our waters, granted under the Reciprocity Treaty in 1854, was at that time an extremely valuable concession to them, an enormous one, indeed, which had greatly increased the prosperity of the American fishing trade, there being then nothing to prevent competition with the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces. But how altered was the case now. Public meetings had been held at Boston, as well as throughout the fishing districts, at which Congress had been memorialized to prevent Canadians being admitted on an equal footing to the American market. It had been placed on record at those meetings that the Washington Treaty struck a fatal blow at the American fishery interests, inasmuch as while, in 1854, American fishermen were able to compete with Canadians, because they had no high taxes to pay and the cost of outfit was so much less than at present, the war, and the burdens it had left behind, had so changed their position in relation to this question that every Canadian fisherman, who had the fish in the sea at his own door, with all the advantages of cheap vessels and cheap equipment; and if he belonged, as no one doubted, to the same courageous and adventurous class as the Americans, would enter into the competition with an advantage of 40 or 50 per cent. in his favour.

The Washington Treaty, instead of surrendering our fishermen and fisheries to the destructive competition of the foreigner, would have the following result:—American fishermen who employed their industry in the waters of Canada, would become like the American lumbermen who engaged in that trade in the valley of the Ottawa, they would settle upon Canadian soil, bringing with them their character for enterprize and energy, and would become equally good subjects of Her Majesty, and would give Canada the benefit of their talents, their enterprize, and their capital.

Could any one doubt as to the effect of removing the duty which was now levied of 2 dollars per barrel upon mackerel and 1 dollar upon herrings, of taking off this enormous bounty in favour of the American fishermen, and leaving our fishermen free and unrestricted access to the best market for them in the world? Could any one doubt that the practical result would be to leave the Canadians in a very short time almost without any competition at all. The clauses of the Washington Treaty which related to Canada were held by every intelligent fisherman to be a great boon, as something which would take the taxes off them, and relieve them from hundreds of thousands of dollars tribute that they were now compelled to pay to a foreign nation. The fishermen of the United States were, on the other hand, just as much averse to the Treaty as our own people were anxious that it should be carried into effect.

How different would be the future under the Washington Treaty from what it would certainly be had it not been negotiated. What was the state of affairs formerly? Why, many of our fishermen were compelled to go to the United States, abandoning their homes in Canada, in order to place themselves upon an equal footing with the Americans, and not only was their industry lost to the country, but when the fishing was over they went to man the American navy, so that the very bone and sinew of the Dominion were placed in a position in which in case of a collision they would be compelled to act against us and against the country which had given them birth.

He had heard it stated that if Canada had continued the policy of exclusion the American fisheries would very soon have utterly failed, and they would have been at our mercy. This was a great mistake. Last summer he went down in a steamer from Dalhousie to Picton, and fell in with a fleet of thirty American fishing vessels, which had averaged 300 barrels of mackerel in three weeks, and had never been within ten miles of the shore; and from this fact it would be seen that the exclusion of the Americans was not quite as efficient as had been imagined.