

beside which the contentions and grievances under the Convention of 1818 will pale into puny insignificance. We have not at our command the space which would be required to point out what a fertile ground for the production of controversies this Article is fitted to be, but we are much at fault in our estimate of the dishonesty and perverse ingenuity of American fishermen, and the politicians who head them, if in the event of the Treaty becoming operative, a luxuriant crop is not speedily produced therefrom, unless, indeed that Article be accepted as a passage through which we can gracefully retire, and yield to our high-minded and generous cousins all that they desire. Our legal position under the Convention of 1818 was sure and firm. Under it American fishermen were allowed to enter our territorial waters for certain clearly specified purposes, and for those purposes only; under it we could accord to them any hospitality or privileges which we might desire to do, and when that hospitality and those privileges were abused, we could withdraw them. We are now about to give them a *permanent legal status* within our territorial waters, differing, among other things by reason of its irrevocability, from the commercial privileges which by custom are afforded to all friendly nations, and which commercial privileges, in so far as they relate to fishing vessels were expressly renounced by the Americans, under the Convention of 1818. We have no doubt that the British Commissioners did the very best they could to secure to Canada her rights, and to prevent her from being overreached. They doubtless had in view this desirable end, that a settlement should be arrived at which would prevent the possibility of all future grievances and misunderstandings, and if we could feel that that end had been attained, we should be heartily glad to see the Treaty ratified, and the fisheries question thereby forever laid at rest; but we are unable to set aside the belief that by giving the American fishermen the new and firmer foothold which the Treaty accords to them, we shall thereby facilitate the perpetration of fresh frauds, and furnish them with far better material than they formerly had, upon which to exercise their ingenuity in basing extravagant demands, and thereby creating fresh controversies for the employment and advantage of their professional agitators.

The American fishermen have always found it exceedingly inconvenient to carry on their fishing operations without having the benefit of certain privileges which were not secured to them by the Convention of 1818. The chief of these privileges are the right to purchase provisions, bait, ice, seines, lines, and other supplies and outfits, the right to land the fish caught by them, and send the same home by rail, and the right to fill vacancies in their crews by procuring Canadian sailors and fishermen. The Canadian fishermen, on the other hand, have found that without having the benefit of the American market they are unable to dispose of their fish, as their catch is more than sufficient to supply all the other markets open to them; but the American market has been practically closed to them by the duty which the Americans imposed upon the produce of the Canadian fisheries.

Article XV. of the proposed Treaty provides for the making of such reciprocal concessions as will secure to the fishermen of each country that which they