

the island of Newfoundland, whenever that colony, the imperial parliament, and the United States, shall each enact to that effect.

*Art. 7.* Provides for the ratification of the treaty.

A treaty which is designed to be reciprocal in its character, should in its operation, confer equal benefits upon the contracting parties, and such a treaty to be just and entitled to be accepted and made the law of the land, should not sacrifice any one interest to secure a benefit to some other interest. The present treaty is objectionable upon this ground, and to that degree as will be seen as not to entitle it to the name of a reciprocal treaty, but should have had some other more appropriate designation, viz. : a treaty for the benefit of certain interest regardless of its effect upon other important interests, and regardless also of the true principles of reciprocity, in its effect upon the general interests of the contracting parties.

It will appear upon investigation that the privileges conceded in Articles 1 and 2 to citizens of the United States are of very little practical importance.

The most valuable of the shore fisheries, viz. : the taking of salmon and shad, are excluded, so that the privileges actually granted are resolved mainly into the right to land and dry nets and cure fish on the Provincial coasts in places where there is no interference with private rights. This might be a privilege of some importance to us, were there any or many such places, but all the eligible points for this purpose are taken up, and, so far as the British coast is concerned, are in the possession of British fishermen, who are not disposed to resign possession, except at a cost which the business will not justify. The treaty makes it their interest to exclude, by claims of prior occupation, our fishermen from their coasts, as it opens to them our markets (markets which supply subsistence to a population of thirty millions) for the sale of their fish, free of duty.

The statistics of our own fisheries in so called British waters under this portion of the treaty, for the last ten years, while it has been in operation, do not show any special or important advantage resulting to us, none, certainly to justify