

good example of the fact that in the background the British, in respect to having freedom of the seas, as do many nations, feel that they have a historic right in the fisheries which are not within our 3 mile limit, but which may be upon our continental shelf. On the west coast, fisheries in the Hecate Strait have been exploited by the Americans and ourselves for many years and are within that category. But I suppose that most national fisheries in the world today are fishing off the east coast and the Grand Banks, which, for almost 400 years, have been exploited by at least 4 or 5 nations, and more recently by 9 nations.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr. Sinclair.

Mr. STICK: Mr. Chairman, this bill affects Newfoundland in a very special way. As you all know, Newfoundland was founded on the fisheries and the fisheries have been in existence, as Mr. Sinclair has said, since about 1498. This bill, which empowers the government to extend the limits of our protection beyond the more or less 3-mile limit, is something I think should be gone into by the committee rather thoroughly, and I would like this morning, if I may take up the time of the committee briefly, to quote something of the nature of this bill which will affect the fisheries in Newfoundland. As the minister has said, the matter of the territorial waters is not clearly defined yet by international law. Something has been done along those lines, but it is not conclusive yet, and I want to quote now from a report of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague dealing with the North Atlantic Coast fisheries:

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 Britannic 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 Britannic 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 Belleisle 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 enjoyed or claimed by the inhabitants thereof, to take, dry, or cure fish on, or within three marine miles of any of the coasts, bays, creeks, or harbours of His Britannic Majesty's Dominions in America not included within the above-mentioned limits; provided, however, that the American fishermen shall be admitted to enter such bays or harbours for the purpose of shelter and of repairing damages therein, of purchasing wood, and of obtaining water, and for no other purpose whatever. But they shall be under such restrictions as may be necessary to prevent their taking, drying or curing fish therein, or in any other manner whatever abusing the privileges hereby reserved to them.

That was the question before The Hague court.