

the season, strike Belle Isle, and proceed onward in the same direction. If, therefore, the French be permitted to sweep their large seines and spread their bultows round Belle Isle, it cannot be doubted that the effect which we too surely know has by such means been produced elsewhere on our coast will be reproduced here—both shoals of fish will be intercepted on their way to the Labrador, to the great injury, if not to the entire destruction of our fisheries on that shore.

The concession next in importance, although not in order, is the permission given to the French to purchase bait, and in the event of a certain contingency, to take it for themselves, on the south coast of Newfoundland between Capes LaHune and St. Mary's.

It cannot be denied that of late years many of the Inhabitants of the South coast have been in the habit of selling Caplin and Herring Bait to the French Bankers at St. Peters, but it is also true that such practice is a violation of our Local Laws, and only exists by reason of the inability of the Local Government to maintain a force sufficient to prevent it.

It is a practice, moreover, which, as may be inferred from our local Legislation, is exceedingly injurious to our fisheries—not only because it deprives our fishermen of what they require for themselves—but because, by its means, the French are enabled to prosecute their fisheries on the Banks, and thus to prevent the fish from coming to the shore:

To require that we should consent to legalize a traffic so suicidal to our interests seems most unreasonable; and if a well-founded objection exists to the sale of bait by any of our people, such objection applies with much greater force to a permission to the French to take it for themselves. The terms of the Convention, as to what shall entitle the French to this right, are somewhat ambiguous; but it is easy to perceive that by many devices such right may be obtained—once obtained, it cannot be withdrawn without their consent, and they will thus obtain advantages in this respect, which, while they will contribute largely to increase the French catch and diminish the expense of the French outfits, will inevitably destroy our Western fishery.

Besides these two main particulars of the Treaty, there are others of a minor character, which are highly objectionable. The exclusive right to the strand from Cape John to the Bay of Islands—the extension of the fishing season to the 5th April—the right of settling three French subjects to every mile upon that shore—and the right to the Rivers, as far as the