

catch at the right time when he can obtain the best price to the American market, and thus be the means of opening a profitable trade with the United States in exchange. The United States do not care for our fisheries. The American fishermen are opposed to the Treaty. Those interested in the fisheries are sending petition after petition to the United States' Government and Congress praying that the Treaty may be rejected. They say they do not want to come into our waters.

The fact of throwing open the Canadian fisheries to the citizens of the United States relieves the country of some 84,000 dollars a year, that would have to be expended in maintaining a large marine police to protect them.

*Mr. Macdougall* believed the Treaty of Washington was one framed in the interest of Canada, and that it was a good, desirable, and beneficial Treaty. He had never been convinced that the right to exclude the fishermen of other countries from the privilege of fishing within the three mile limit of Canadian coasts was a right which it was so important to maintain for the sake of any advantage we derived from it. He had heard no arguments, either in the House or elsewhere, nothing had been proved in all the discussions that had taken place to satisfy him that the fishermen of the Colonies would catch more fish, would make more money, would be better off, or be improved in any of their material circumstances by excluding foreign fishermen from Canadian waters. He had not been able to convince himself that the advantage which flowed from exclusive rights over the fishing grounds was serious and substantial in its nature. During the whole time the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 was in force, American fishermen were permitted to land upon the coasts of Canada, and to fish in the waters of the same. When that Treaty was negotiated there was a great outcry against it in the maritime Provinces. The people there said their interests were seriously menaced by the Treaty, and that if it were ratified irreparable injury would be done to them. But as time went on, and the results of the operation of the Treaty were seen, what was the consequence? Why the people of Nova Scotia and the other Provinces found that the Treaty, while it yielded a nominal right, conferred many and solid advantages. A great trade, which they had never anticipated, sprung up in consequence of the admission of American fishermen, and instead of the ruin they feared, they gained so much in every respect that they desired a continuance of the Treaty, and lamented its repeal. It was found, too, that the people of Prince Edward Island also experienced a great advantage from the Treaty in respect of the trade in coarse grains with the United States, which was largely increased by the permission granted to Americans to frequent their coasts for fishing purposes.

*Mr. Power* believed the Treaty of Washington would restore an important branch of trade to Canadian fishermen, for example. In the spring of each year some forty or fifty vessels resorted to the Magdalen Islands for herring. These vessels carried an average of 900 barrels each, so that the quantity taken was generally about 50,000 barrels of herring. During the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty no United States' vessels went after these fish. All the vessels engaged in that fishery belonged to some one of the Provinces now forming the Dominion. Since the abrogation of the Treaty and the imposition of one dollar per barrel by the United States the case had become entirely changed. Vessels still went there but they were nearly all American.

Now under the Washington Treaty we shall get that important branch of trade back again. The Lower Provinces, Nova Scotia in particular, had a large herring trade with Newfoundland. Vessels went there with salt and other supplies and brought back cargoes of herrings in bulk.

Employment was thus given to the cooper and labourer in preparing these fish for export, and as the business was chiefly prosecuted in the winter months, when other employment was difficult to obtain, it always proved a great boon to the industrious. We lost this trade when we lost the Reciprocity Treaty; but it would return to us under the Washington Treaty. A little more than two years ago two vessels belonging to the Province of Quebec arrived in Halifax from Labrador. They had between them 3,400 barrels of herrings. Not finding sale for them in Halifax they proceeded to New York, where they sold. The duties on these two cargoes amounted to 3,400 dollars in gold. Under the Washington Treaty this amount would go into the pockets of the owners and crews of the vessels instead of into the United States' Treasury, and similar cases occurred almost every day. The same reason applied to the mackerel fishery, but with still greater force, the duty on that fish being 2 dollars per barrel. There was another feature connected with this fishery which ought to have a good deal of weight in making the Washington Treaty acceptable. American vessels following the cod and mackerel fisheries were manned in great part by natives of some part of Canada. The chief cause of this was that the hands fished on shares, viz., one half of