

An affidavit is made before some competent authority that the herring shipped on board the vessel were caught by the captain and crew, and that the Newfoundland fishermen, as members of the crew, assisted with their labour, boats, nets and other gear in catching and preparing the same.

Finally there is a certificate signed by a competent official of Newfoundland, to the effect that the fare was procured within a certain district, and caught by the crew of the said schooner, assisted by native fishermen, and that the same are the product of the American fisheries.

It will be observed that under such an arrangement as is thus described, the United States fishermen have the advantage denied them by the Convention of 1818, relating to the Atlantic fisheries of British North America.

They are at the same time enabled to escape the duty levied by the tariff of their country upon Canadian fish.

They can secure all bait supplies necessary for their operations free of charge.

They are accorded such privileges in common with the local fishermen, but they have the additional advantage over them in the free admission of fishing gear, etc.

They are enabled to dictate their own terms by means of the protective duties imposed in the United States upon all fish caught in British waters by British fishermen, which have not been converted into American caught fish by the expedients thus adopted, as above explained.

On the receipt of this information, the undersigned enquired from Sir James Winter, K.C.M.G., of St. Johns, Newfoundland, formerly Attorney General of the Government of this Island, whether the statement could be substantiated.

From his reply which is hereto appended, it will be gathered that the statement is substantially correct.

The undersigned believes that this opportunity should not be lost of calling the attention of Your Excellency to the position in which Canadian fishermen are placed in the waters of Newfoundland, the difficulty of which is thus greatly augmented by the wholly unwarrantable state of affairs said to exist.

Newfoundland imposes heavy license fees upon Canadian fishing vessels on her coasts and in her harbours, for the privilege of purchasing bait supplies, which hitherto they had enjoyed in common with Newfoundlanders respectively, on the coast of the Dominion, and of the colony of Newfoundland.

Against this treatment which placed her on a footing with foreign nations, Canada remonstrated without success.

The Newfoundland Government, although assurances have been given to Her Majesty's Government that the Act under which these fees were levied would not be applied to British subjects, went further, and prohibited Canadian fishermen from obtaining bait, denying them the right even to purchase it. The effect of this action upon the operations of the Canadian fishing fleet does not require comment.

Under the Bait Act of 1877, the exportation of "bait fishes" is interdicted.

After the fishing season a large trade had been conducted by Canadian vessels in "frozen herring" for commercial purposes.

The Newfoundland authorities declined to allow the Canadian traders to purchase these "frozen herring" from the Newfoundland dealers or fishermen for exportation from the Island, alleging that they were "bait fishes," the exportation of which is interdicted by the Bait Act.

What placing Canadian fishermen in this disadvantageous position the Newfoundland Government were extending the fullest privileges to those of the United States, who were, and are allowed to purchase or obtain bait free of charge and without any impediment to their operations.

If the present arrangement under review be carried out, the United States fishermen will be placed in the enviable position of not only possessing all the privileges devolving upon the Newfoundland fishermen themselves, but will be assisted by the action of the Newfoundland authorities in maintaining a position much more favourable as regards the tariff of their own country. This cannot fail