

kept in check by smugglers. The boot was formerly on your leg; it is now perhaps on the other. You have been driven into a war which has created a large expenditure and increased your taxation. It would perhaps pay at this moment to smuggle some articles from the provinces into this country. You are entitled to defend your revenue. But at the same time bear this in mind, that one of the main objections in the maritime provinces to this treaty, was that it gave to your people the power of smuggling. And that power you possess, and may use to any extent you please. (Laughter.) Over thousands of miles of coast we can not afford to keep revenue officers. Down come cutters from Maine, with flour, pork, salt, &c.; but who can tell what they have in the salt. (Great Laughter.) Why, sir, we sometimes laugh at Yankee notions; one of those is what is called white-eye in the provinces—a life destroying spirit which these coasters bring and with which they deluge our coasts; and it comes in the salt. (Laughter.) So in like manner tea, tobacco and manufactures. Some fisherman can land on any part of our 5,000 miles of coast, and when challenged by our custom-house officer withdraws, and the white-eye is landed. And I will tell you what we do to adapt ourselves to the circumstances. We are free-traders, and we maintain our government, have an overflowing treasury and carry on our public works with a tariff of ten per cent. (Hear, hear.) The only way we can keep out smuggling is to keep our tariff so low as to make it not worth while for any one to smuggle. Let me now draw your attention to the value of these North American fisheries. You have behind and around you here, boundless prairies, which an all bountiful Creator annually covers with rich harvests of wheat and corn. The ocean is our prairie, and it stretches away before and around us, and Almighty God for the sustenance of man, annually replenishes it with fish in myriads that cannot be counted, having a commercial value that no man can estimate. The fecundity of the ocean may be estimated by the fact that the roes of thirty codfish annually replace all the fish that are taken by the British, French and American fishermen on the banks of Newfoundland. In like manner the schools of mackerel, herring, and of all other fish that swarm in the Bays and swim around the shores, are replaced year by year. These great storehouses of food can never be exhausted. But it may be said, does not the free competition, which now exists, lower the prices? No. Codfish have never been higher in the markets of the world than they were last summer. Herrings are now selling in Baltimore for \$13 a barrel. Thirty years ago I used to buy No. 1 mackerel in Halifax for \$4 a barrel. They now cost \$19, and I have seen them selling since the Reciprocity Treaty was signed for \$23. The reason of this is that, relative to other employments, fishing is a perilous and poor business, and that, with the progress of settlement and growth of population in all these great States and Provinces, to say nothing of the increased consumption in Spain, the Mediterranean, the Brazils and the West Indies—all that your fishermen and ours can catch will scarcely supply the demand. I placed before the committee a paper signed by two American merchants, carrying on trade in Prince Edward's Island, which proves that under the Treaty, your mackerel fishery has flourished and expanded to an extent unexampled in its former history. Taken two years prior to the existence of the treaty and contrasting them with the last two years, they show that your mackerel fishery has grown from 250 vessels measuring 18,150 tons, valued at \$750,000 and manned by 2,750 men and securing a catch

worth \$850,000, to 600 vessels, measuring 54,000 tons, employing 9,000 men, and securing 315,000 barrels, worth \$4,567,500. So with the herring fishery, it is equally prosperous. I have seen two American seine boats take 500 barrels of herrings, at Baltimore prices, worth \$6,500, on the Coast of Labrador, in a summer afternoon. The net fishing is also profitable. The Bank earns and Mill grinds while the banker and miller sleep. The fisherman sets his net at night, and finds in the morning that a kind Providence, without a miracle, except the "wealth of the seas," that standing miracle, has loaded his nets with a liberal hand. These fisheries, sir, are sufficient for us all. The French who are anxious to build up a powerful navy maintain 10,000 men by their bounties in these North American waters and it is most creditable to our fishermen, that in the face of these bounties and of yours, they have been able, by strict economy and hardy endurance, to wrestle for a share of these ocean treasures, to main their families and increase their numbers.

A gentleman asked—But had we not the right to fish on the Banks of Newfoundland before the Treaty?

Mr. HOWE—Yes, but not in the great bays of Newfoundland, and along the coast lines where the people of Newfoundland, who frequent the Banks but little, catch all their codfish. Some of these bays are twenty or thirty miles in width, and deeply indent the island, being broken into numerous fords or smaller bays, where fish are plenty. By the treaty American fishermen can now use all these bays, as well as those upon the coasts of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The command of the inshore fisheries gives to your people the opportunity to supply themselves with bait, whether they resort to banks or fish around the coast.

I trust I have thus shown you, Mr. Chairman, that the fisheries are inexhaustible, and of inestimable value; that free competition does not lower the prices, and that your fishermen and the French have special aids to stimulate their industry. But my great objection to the abrogation of this treaty is, that it throws open again a wide field of controversy. Who can measure by the eye a mile even upon the land? And how are your fishermen to measure accurately three marine miles at sea even in fair weather? In a fog it is impossible to do so. And the naval officers who may be sent down to guard our mutual rights will be as much mystified and puzzled as they were before.

But it may be said you gave us your inshore fisheries when we gave you ours. You did, but they were of comparatively little value. This was the objection that we took to the treaty in Nova Scotia in 1854. Let me illustrate. Suppose a farmer, living on a poor farm, exhausted by excessive cropping, were to say to a neighbour having a rich soil, let us save fencing and throw our farms into one. (Laughter.) That was your proposition, and it was accepted. Now mark the result—that while your vessels have swarmed in our waters for the last nine years, carrying off enormous values every year, we have never sent a vessel south during all that time, or caught a single cargo of fish on the coasts or in the bays of the United States. (Hear, hear.)

Let me ask your attention to another matter which requires to be explained. Mr. Seymour, of New York, who made an excellent speech in favour of the resolution, took exception to the high tariff of Canada. Now, in the provinces, our people are naturally anxious to improve their internal communications, and bring them up to a level with other portions of the continent. Yield-

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