

branch of industry, but during the time once owned in St. Pierre and certain rights of that island. In peace or war it from year to years, and fisheries show that 530 with a combined, and, so far as the amount of the value of the, 000. Slight as is continent, she gives her a point she has for so material com- St. Pierre and armed force on England it was y them on the island of New- o the northern e western side, a subsequent extend from once asserted s now under ritish subjects. people of New- d forms a part poses of trade h the French o have most the Atlantic them a con- f our fisheries hat have for nited States, access to our wever, have cluded them so, and from and bays of ward Island. the Ameri-

cans, who immediately embarked in this enterprise with a vigour which astonished the people of the maritime provinces. The fisheries they value most are those of mackerel, which are only to be prosecuted with profit in Canadian waters—off Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island, and in the Bay of Chaleurs especially. During the time they had access to the fisheries they also availed themselves largely of their right of fishing for cod and herring in the Bay of Fundy, and in other bays within the three miles limit of the shores of the maritime provinces; but it is the mackerel that they chiefly covet, and for which they have always been prepared to make certain commercial concessions. Now that they are again to enjoy the rights they possessed under the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854-65, it is important to consider the value of the fisheries we concede to them, and the value of the concessions we receive in exchange; I shall therefore attempt to present some facts and figures which may illustrate a subject of considerable interest at the present juncture, when a Commission must shortly sit at Halifax to consider the question whether any pecuniary compensation is due to us over and above the right which we are to enjoy of taking our fish free into the American markets.

It is very difficult to get at full and accurate estimates of the tonnage and value of the fish actually caught by the Americans in our waters. According to a return lately issued by the Secretary of State, Washington, the following represents the tonnage employed for a number of years in the deep-sea fisheries:—

Year.	Mackerel Fishery.	Cod Fishery.	Year.	Mackerel Fishery.	Cod Fishery.
1820	—	60,843	1863	51,019	117,290
1830	35,973	61,555	1864	55,498	92,745
1840	28,269	76,036	1865	41,209	59,288
1850	58,112	85,646	1866	46,589	42,796
1860	26,111	136,654	1867	31,498	36,709
1861	54,296	127,310	1868	83,828	—
1862	80,597	122,863			

Massachusetts is that State of the Union which devotes most attention to the mackerel fishery; the total value of the catch in 1855 having been \$1,355,332, and in 1865, \$1,886,837. The value of the cod fishery of the same State during the same years was \$1,413,413 and \$2,689,723 respectively.

The total value of the American fishery in 1864, when the Reciprocity Treaty was still in operation, but the Civil War had sadly disturbed this branch of industry, is put down as follows by the same American authority:—

Whale-fishery	\$4,871,347 in gold
Cod and mackerel-fishery	4,026,849 „
Total	\$8,898,196

But if we go back to 1860, before the war occurred to cripple this branch of industry, especially in the case of the whale fishery, we find the amount of tonnage employed was in the aggregate nearly double that of