

*An Act to authorize the President of the United States to protect and defend the Rights of American Fishing Vessels, American Fishermen, American Trading and other Vessels, in certain cases, and for other purposes.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that whenever the President of the United States shall be satisfied that American fishing-vessels or American fishermen, visiting, or being in the in the waters or at any ports or places of the British dominions of North America, are or then lately have been denied or abridged in the enjoyment of any rights secured to them by Treaty or Law, or are or then lately have [been] unjustly vexed or harassed in the enjoyment of such rights, or subjected to unreasonable restrictions, Regulations, or requirements in respect of such rights; or otherwise unjustly vexed or harassed in said waters, ports, or places; or whenever the President of the United States shall be satisfied that any such fishing-vessels or fishermen, having a permit under the Laws of the United States to touch and trade at any port or ports, place or places, in the British dominions of North America, are or then lately have been denied the privilege of entering such port or ports, place or places, in the same manner and under the same Regulations as may exist therein applicable to trading-vessels of the most-favoured nation, or shall be unjustly vexed or harassed in respect thereof, or otherwise be unjustly vexed or harassed therein, or shall be prevented from purchasing such supplies as may there be lawfully sold to trading-vessels of the most favoured nation; or whenever the President of the United States shall be satisfied that any other vessels of the United States, their masters or crews, so arriving at or being in such British waters or ports or places of the British dominions of North America, are or then lately have been denied any of the privileges therein accorded to the vessels, their masters or crews, of the most favoured nation, or unjustly vexed or harassed in respect of the same, or unjustly vexed or harassed therein by the authorities thereof, then, and in either or all of such cases, it shall be lawful, and it shall be the duty of the President of the United States, in his discretion, by Proclamation to that effect, to deny vessels, their masters and crews, of the British dominions of North America, any entrance into the waters, ports, or places of or within the United States (with such exceptions in regard to vessels in distress, stress of weather, or needing supplies as to the President shall seem proper), whether such vessels shall have come directly from said dominions on such destined voyage or by way of some port or place in such destined voyage elsewhere; and also to deny entry into any port or place of the United States of fresh fish or salt fish or any other product of said dominions, or other goods coming from said dominions to the United States. The President may, in his discretion, apply such Proclamation to any part or to all of the foregoing-named subjects, and may revoke, qualify, limit, and renew such Proclamation from time to time as he may deem necessary to the full and just execution of the purposes of this Act. Every violation of any such Proclamation, or any part thereof, is hereby declared illegal, and all vessels and goods so coming or being within the waters, ports, or places of the United States contrary to such Proclamation shall be forfeited to the United States; and such forfeiture shall be enforced and proceeded upon in the same manner and with the same effect as in the case of vessels or goods whose importation or coming to or being in the waters or ports of the United States contrary to law may now be enforced and proceeded upon. Every person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act, or such Proclamation of the President made in pursuance hereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding 1,000 dollars, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the Court.

Approved, 3rd March, 1887.

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