

States through the Dominion, burthened with double freights, unloading, shipping, land-carriage and other expenses. He believed our fishermen were able to hold their own, and if they allowed the Americans, who were at so great disadvantage to place them, the Newfoundlanders, at a disadvantage they would deserve no pity, but he apprehended no danger from that competition. He believed the effect of the Treaty would be to impart a stimulus and vigour to our trade and fisheries.

*Mr. Brennan* would sanction the Bill. He had been forty years in the fishing business. The Yankee will benefit the herring-fishery, which has become a total failure all over the country of late. He had had boats occupied in the prosecution of that fishery for twenty-five years, and they never cleared 5s. In the Bay of Islands he had known people to throw cargoes of herring overboard. Many would be glad to get half-a-crown per barrel for them. The intercourse with Americans will promote this trade.

*Mr. Munn* said we were no losers during the Reciprocity Treaty. The Americans are not at all likely to avail themselves of the privileges thrown open to them by the Treaty. If the mackerel came back to our shores, probably they would follow them here.

*Mr. Bennett (Premier)* said the free admission of cod-fish, cod-oil, and herrings and other fish into the markets of the United States would be of immense advantage, leading, as it would, to a very much larger consumption of the products of Newfoundland than there could be under present circumstances. When our herrings were subjected to a duty of 5s. per barrel, our codfish to a duty of about 5s. per quintal, and our cod-oil, at present prices, to a duty of nearly 10l. per ton. At present we have scarcely any market to which to send our herrings, and of late that fishery has been comparatively of little value; and although we have many other markets for our codfish and oil, yet the opening of the United States markets must increase our trade. By the Treaty thousands upon thousands of barrels of our herrings would now find their way to the United States at remunerative prices, whereas, of late, they would scarcely pay the cost of catching. Our fishermen have nothing to fear from the competition of Americans. With their superior training and the facilities they possess they should drive American competitors out of the field. The object of the Americans is to catch a large class of fish that are found in deep waters, and they consequently will seldom frequent our shores. During the Reciprocity Treaty they did not compete with us. When we are admitted to free competition with the Americans in their own markets, is it reasonable to suppose that their fishermen can come down here—a distance of 1,000 miles, with their dearer labour—and compete successfully with our fishermen? They could not and would not. American labour can be more profitably employed than in the Newfoundland fisheries; one effect of the Treaty would be to cause our merchants not to continue to encourage the catching of tomcods along the coast, but to fit out for the banks suitable vessels such as the Americans employ for that purpose, and for which the class of vessels that go to Labrador are well adapted.

It was not to be credited that Newfoundland would consent that all the other Provinces of British North America should carry into the United States the produce of their fisheries, duty free, and the products of Newfoundland fisheries should be heavily taxed. He could not see how the large benefits offered by Americans could reasonably be expected by Newfoundlanders, or, indeed, be offered to them, without their giving corresponding benefits in return, and if the benefits to be received were not considered by some to be equivalent to the rights we give, they were at least so valuable that he could not see how any sane man could reject them. He was anxious to accept them in the interests of the country for what was offered.

*Mr. Renouf*, Chairman of the Board of Works, thought the Treaty calculated to confer upon Newfoundland many and untold benefits. During the Reciprocity Treaty were there ever any complaints of any interference with our fishermen? The Americans did not come, nor did they interfere. The admission of cod-oil into the United States, free of duty, must necessarily enhance its value and benefit the fishery interests generally. The Treaty will establish a great competition between the United States and Great Britain in the purchase of our cod-oil. It was not reasonable to suppose that the merchants of St. John's and Conception Bay, who conducted over three-fourths of the trade of the island, would be in favour of a Treaty that was calculated to injure either themselves, the planters, or the fishermen whom they supply for the fisheries. The Treaty contains within it the germs of prosperity.

*The Honourable Speaker* said that until recently his opinion had been strongly opposed to the measure. He had, however, been induced to change his opinion owing to the almost unanimous (for there had only been two dissentient voices) decision