

possible, and perhaps the idea of limited licenses, exclusive of bait and crews, and restricting transshipment of catch, might be most likely to effect this.

On the other hand, it may be that it would practically terminate the issue of licenses, for if the vessels could not get bait or men, they might not require licenses for supplies and outfits.

The undersigned has endeavoured to put shortly the two sides of the question which appear to be capable of argument from the different aspects; but there can be little doubt that a strict application of the convention of 1818, involving the withdrawal of licenses and other concessions, is what would best conserve Canadian fishing interests, thus hampering competition, and not permitting the convenience of our ports to be used as a basis of fishing operations, at least until such time as the United States show a disposition to yield something for all they get, and agree to an arrangement which will open their markets to our fish. As it is, they are getting bait and other vital privileges from us for practically nothing, and are sending their markets against us in return.

It is true, the Atlantic fisheries question is one of those theoretically before the High Joint Commission, and the time may not be propitious for any drastic change. Nevertheless, it seems highly problematical whether that tribunal will convene, and in any event, the question of the expediency of withdrawing it from the scope thereof, in like manner with the Alaska boundary contention and some Behring Sea claims, is open to consideration.

The question, therefore, becomes one of advanced policy, and as such is in every way worthy, in the opinion of the undersigned, of the most serious consideration of the government, even to the length of some possible intercolonial convention with the sister colony of Newfoundland, designed to cement these identical interests by mutual action, looking to a monopoly of the bait supply in the North Atlantic for British subjects, to the exclusion of the outside world and its extinguishment as a factor in the participation of the vast fisheries, which by right and geographical position naturally belong to us.

The opportunity for great and permanent results appears to be but waiting and inviting action.

Respectfully submitted,

R. N. VENNING.

OTTAWA, July 7th, 1905.