

and hour of the first seizure, that of the D. J. Adams, Canadian vessels were lying in her home port, Gloucester, actually buying bait and other supplies for deep sea fishing; as they were to the decision of the Halifax Commission that "buying bait" was a commercial, and not a fishing or treaty transaction.

I shall not discuss whether it is her right; but, so far as known, she has persistently ignored every British statute, except the act of 1819, and this she has superseded or reinforced by legislating on the subject over again, making new acts to change the effects of a treaty, already for forty years in force before this present Canada was incorporated, — a treaty made before she was born and to which she was not a party.

Canada excels in the inconsistency of her position. Thus, whilst denying the privileges of commerce or intercourse to our fishing vessels, she restricts their treaty privileges through the clauses of her customs laws regulating trading vessels. If these apply, surely our vessels are entitled to the benefits of that commercial intercourse they are made to regulate.

From 1793, the United States have issued, at request, to its licensed fishing vessels, permits to engage in trade at foreign ports. Clothed with these papers, our licensed fishing vessels have visited all the ports of the Atlantic and Pacific, during almost a century. Canada alone, and only in 1886, has refused to respect the authority of the United States to document her own vessels in her own way to engage in commerce. The "Register" and the "Enrollment and License" with "permit to trade," equally express the authority of the government that the vessel, bearing them may engage in foreign trade. It is willfulness to argue that, because our "permit to trade" could not open colonial ports closed by law from foreign trade, therefore, it was not entitled to respect in ports which had by law been opened to trade with all vessels of the United States. Neither the Treaty of 1818, the act of 1819, nor the proclamations of 1830 name or restrict the forms of papers which either party shall use for its vessels visiting the ports of the other.

Neither national usage nor the law of nations forbids foreign fishing vessels from seeking the ports of a friendly nation to buy provisions, stores or bait that they need; yet Canada bars