

As Fishery Officer you have full authority to compel the observance of the requirements of the Fisheries Acts and regulations by foreign fishing vessels and fishermen in those parts of the coasts of Canada to which, by the Convention of 1818, they are admitted to privileges of taking or drying and curing fish concurrent with those enjoyed by British fishing vessels and fishermen.

You will receive instructions from the Customs Department authorising you to act as an officer of the Customs, and in that capacity you are to see that the Revenue Laws and Regulations are duly observed.

Your jurisdiction with respect to any action you may take against foreign fishing vessels and citizens engaged in fishing is to be exercised only within the limits of "three marine miles" of any of "the coasts, bays, creeks, or harbours" of Canada.

With regard to the Magdalen Islands, although the liberty to land and to dry and cure fish there is not expressly given by the terms of the Convention to United States fishermen, it is not at present intended to exclude them from these islands.

It will be your duty to protect the inshore fisheries of Canada in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Convention of October 20th, 1818, the first Article of which provides:—

"Whereas differences have arisen respecting the liberty claimed by the United States for the inhabitants thereof to take, dry, and cure fish, on certain coasts, bays, harbours, and creeks of His Britannic Majesty's dominions in America, it is agreed between the High Contracting Parties that the inhabitants of the said United States shall have for ever, in common with the subjects of His Britannic Majesty, the liberty to take fish of every kind on that part of the southern coast of Newfoundland which extends from Cape Ray to the Rameau Islands, on the western and northern coast of Newfoundland, from the said Cape Ray to the Quirpon Islands, on the shores of the Magdalen Islands, and also on the coasts, bays, harbours, and creeks from Mount Joly, on the southern coast of Labrador, to and through the Straits of Belle Isle, and thence northwardly indefinitely along the coast, without prejudice, however, to any of the exclusive rights of the Hudson's Bay Company; and that the American fishermen shall also have liberty, for ever, to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours, and creeks of the southern part of the coast of Newfoundland, hereabove described, and of the coast of Labrador; but so soon as the same, or any portion thereof, shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such portion so settled, without previous agreement for such purpose, with the inhabitants, proprietors, or possessors of the ground.

"And the United States hereby renounce for ever any liberty heretofore enjoyed or claimed by the inhabitants thereof, to take, dry, or cure fish, on or within three marine miles of any of the coasts, bays, creeks, or harbours of His Britannic Majesty's dominions in America, not included within the above-mentioned limits; provided, however, that the American fishermen shall be admitted to enter such bays or harbours, for the purpose of shelter and repairing of damages therein, of purchasing wood and of obtaining water, and for no other purpose whatever. But they shall be under such restrictions as may be necessary to prevent their taking, drying, or curing fish therein, or in any other manner whatever abusing the privileges hereby reserved to them."

By this you will observe, United States fishermen are secured the liberty of taking fish on the southern coasts of Labrador, and around the Magdalen Islands, and of drying and curing fish along certain of the Southern shores of Labrador, where this coast is unsettled, or if settled after previous agreement with the settlers or owners of the ground.

In all other parts the exclusion of foreign vessels and boats is absolute, so far as fishing is concerned, and is to be enforced within the limits laid down by the Convention of 1818, they being allowed to enter bays and harbours for four purposes only, viz.—*for shelter, the repairing of damages, the purchasing of wood, and to obtain water.*

You are to compel, if necessary, the maintenance of peace and good order by foreign fishermen pursuing their calling and enjoying concurrent privileges of fishing or curing fish with British fishermen, in those parts to which they are admitted by the Treaty of 1818.

You are to see that they obey the laws of the country, that they do not molest British fishermen in the pursuit of their calling, and that they observe the regulations of the Fishery Laws in every respect.

You are to prevent foreign fishing vessels and boats which enter bays and harbours for the four legal purposes above mentioned, from taking advantage thereof, to take, dry,