

competition of men coming from the United States who possessed less knowledge and skill, and who were subjected to heavy expenses. He considered that the Colony of Newfoundland was not surrendering anything like an equivalent for the advantages we should derive.

At the present moment the whole western coast from the Ramean Islands to St. George's Bay was open to the Americans to fish concurrently with our fishermen, and had it been found that we were sufferers to any extent by the exercise of this right?

It had been stated that the American fisheries were becoming exhausted, and that the Americans must come to our shores. Such statements appeared to him to be absurd. It might as well be said that the fisheries of the banks of Nova Scotia and of the Gulf of St. Lawrence were being exhausted. It would be asserted, as it had already been, that we were surrendering our rights and depriving our people of their birthright without any return; that we were sacrificing our fishing grounds to the Americans for the sake of Imperial interests. He would deny that our commercial men would sacrifice those rights, upon which our very existence depends, for a mere idea, and without some substantial consideration.

Before introducing this measure (the Bill to carry into effect the provisions of the Treaty of Washington) the Government had taken time to weigh well the interests at stake. A good deal of discussion had been evoked since the Bill was first introduced, and the result had been to confirm the Government in the course they had marked out. The only difference of opinion existing appeared to be upon matters of detail, or as to the propriety of imposing certain conditions; but the result of all the deliberations which had so far taken place was a unanimous determination to accept the measure rather than hazard any further delay.

*Mr. Rendell* believed the effect of the operation of the Treaty would be beneficial to the interests of the Colony. It was true that the Treaty, so far as Newfoundland was concerned, was maimed by a most serious omission, that of not providing for the free admission of seal oil; but even with this defect he considered it better to accept the measure than reject it. As to the injury to the interests of our fishermen resulting from the competition of the Americans fishing in our waters, he did not apprehend it, as it did not appear probable that the Americans would avail themselves much of the privilege.

As far as the northern bays were concerned it would be certain loss to the Americans to provide the necessary outfit and to go to those places to prosecute the fisheries. The only part of the country where there seemed to be any danger of this sort to be apprehended would be about Fortune Bay, and even there it seemed that the probabilities were against it.

Against this, which was only, at most, a doubtful matter, we had the certain and positive advantage of a free market for our cod oil and other produce. Our herring fishery, which was now of but little value for want of a market, would become a most important and valuable fishery. There would be a large and valuable market opened for our codfish among a population always ready to purchase, and the advantage to our fisheries in this particular could hardly be estimated.

*Mr. Rogerson* (Member of the Executive Council and present Receiver-General) believed the operation of the Treaty would be beneficial to the Colony. The admission of the produce of the Newfoundland fisheries into American markets, free of duty, would have an important bearing upon the value of labour in the country, and tend to increase the value of our staple products. We should have a large market immediately open for our cod-oil. The same remark would apply to the herring. The population of the United States was increasing rapidly. The benefit would not be only in the demand created by an additional consumption in the United States, but also in the effect of that demand in raising the markets in other countries. He considered it would be suicidal to the interests of the people of the country to reject the advantages offered to us by the Treaty. He would accept the Treaty, because he recognized in it a means of stimulating the industries of the country, of elevating the condition of the labouring population, and of stimulating life and enterprise in commerce. He did not fear competition; the Americans had already the privilege of fishing over a large portion of the western shore, and did not avail themselves of it in any way to the damage of our fishermen. The commercial body of Newfoundland had arrived at the conclusion that their interests would be benefitted by adopting the Treaty. Our herring fishery had, for many years past, been in a ruinous condition; our exports were met by heavy duties in American ports, while the Americans could come down and take from our waters as much as they required, and take them into their own markets duty free. No trade could be carried on against such unequal competition. If we do not accept the Treaty our produce can only get into the United