

the inherent prerogative right of revocation at any time, whenever the natural rights in the public property, or the welfare, of the home-subjects, or the interests of state policy, or the maintenance of the territorial inviolability and sovereignty of the conceding nation, require such revocation.

And, sustaining this reasoning, and also the claim of the natural rights of subjects in the public property of their nation, of which the coast fisheries form a part, Vattel is equally explicit :

"It is very just to say that the nation ought carefully to preserve her public property and not to dispose of it without good reason, nor to alienate, or charge it but only for a manifest public advantage, or in case of a pressing necessity. The public property is extremely useful, and even necessary to the nation; and she cannot squander it improperly without injuring herself, and shamefully neglecting the duty of self-preservation. As to the property common to all the citizens, the nation does an injury to those who derive advantage from it, if she alienates it without necessity, or without cogent reasons. . . . The prince, or the superior of the society, being naturally no more than the administrator, and not the proprietor, of the State, his authority as sovereign, or head of the nation, does not of itself give him a right to alienate, or charge, the public property. The right to do this is reserved to the proprietor alone, since proprietorship is defined to be the right to dispose of a thing substantially. If he exceeds his powers with respect to this property, the alienation he makes of it will be invalid; and may at any time be revoked by his successor, or by the nation." . . . "The rules we have just established relate to alienations of public property in favour of alien individuals."²²

Respecting Treaties which concede voluntary, or unequal, servitudes, without reciprocal privileges, or concessions, Haute-feuille sustains the exception to the generally assumed doctrine of International Law, quoted above, and says:—

"Treaties are in general obligatory on the nations which have consented to them; however they have not this quality in an absolute manner, (*cependant ils n'ont pas cette qualité d'une manière absolue*). The unequal Treaty, or even the equal, con-

²² Vattel's Law of Nations, pp. 116-7.