

*Mr. Foster.*—That is, you add the catch of your own people to the catch of our people in the gulf, and say that is such a percentage of the total amount that went into the United States' market. I dare say it may be so.

*Mr. Thomson.*—So, as United States' fishermen obtained in the gulf that year 80,000 barrels, and there were imported into their market from the British Provinces about 91,000 barrels, that makes a total catch in the Gulf of St. Lawrence of 171,000 barrels, that is to say, the catch on the United States' coast was 130,339 barrels, or 43 per cent., and the catch in the Gulf of St. Lawrence 171,000 barrels, or 57 per cent., this makes a total of 301,339 barrels. Now, these very figures themselves are about the very best evidence that can be advanced as to the relative value of these two fisheries.

With reference to the value which the United States themselves put on our fisheries, I want to cite some of their own figures; and the value which the Americans themselves have set on these fisheries is very conclusively shown by admissions of their own public men.

*Sir Alexander Galt.*—Before you take up that point, Mr. Thomson, will you be kind enough to tell me what the proportion of the catch you claim as taken inshore, bore to the whole American consumption; 50 per cent. you have made it, and I think it was 33 per cent.?

*Mr. Thomson.*—I say that if the proportion of the voyages taken inshore within the three-mile limit be two-thirds, there were taken in British territorial waters about 50 per cent.

*Sir Alexander Galt.*—50 per cent.?

*Mr. Thomson.*—Yes. I will read the proposition again. Now, allowing, as the United States' affidavits affirm, that one-half of the catch was taken inshore, viz., 40,000 barrels, add importations from Canada, 91,000 barrels, which makes 131,000 barrels; and therefore there have been taken in British territorial waters 45 per cent. of the entire consumption of the United States. That is what I said.

*Mr. Foster.*—That is assuming the whole of your catch to have been taken inshore.

*Mr. Thomson.*—Yes; and if the portion vouched for as taken from within the three mile limit be two-thirds, then these figures would make 152,000, or over 50 per cent. of that consumption.

*Mr. Foster.*—I hope that the Commission will not charge us for the privilege possessed by British fishermen of catching mackerel.

*Mr. Dana.*—Some of the British catch is taken eight miles from land.

*Mr. Thomson.*—In order to show the value, as stated by the Americans themselves, of these fisheries, I will quote the language of Mr. Secretary Seward, which is quoted on page 16 of the British Reply to the United States' Answer. Mr. Secretary Seward said:—

“Will the Senate please to notice that the principal fisheries in the waters to which these limitations apply are the mackerel and the herring fisheries, and that these are what are called ‘shoal fisheries,’ that is to say, the best fishing for mackerel and herring is within three miles of the shore. Therefore, by that renunciation, the United States renounced the best mackerel and herring fisheries. Senators, please to notice also, that the privilege of resort to the shore constantly to cure and dry fish, is very important. Fish can be cured sooner, and the sooner cured the better they are, and the better is the market price. This circumstance has given to the colonies a great advantage in this trade. That stimulated their desire to abridge the American fishing as much as possible; and indeed they seek naturally enough to procure our exclusion altogether from the fishing grounds.”

*Mr. Foster.*—What year was that?

*Mr. Thomson.*—1852. Touching the mode in which the Treaty of 1818 as regards large bays shall be construed, Mr. Secretary Seward said this:—

“While that question is kept up, the American fisheries, which were once in a most prosperous condition, are comparatively stationary or declining although supported by large bounties. At the same time, the Provincial fisheries are gaining in the quantity of fish exported to this country, and largely gaining in their exportations abroad.

“Our fishermen want all that our own construction of the convention gives them, and want and must have *more*—they want and must have the privilege of fishing within the three inhibited miles, and of curing fish on the shore.”

Certainly the circumstances which induced Mr. Secretary Seward to use that language in 1852 have not changed in such a manner as to authorize the United States, or any of her public men, to use different language to-day.

Senator Hamlin, after describing the magnitude and importance of the American fishermen as the greatest fountain of their commercial prosperity and naval power,