

take fish of every kind, except shell-fish, on the sea-coasts and shores, and in the bays, harbours, and creeks of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, and of the several islands thereunto adjacent, without being restricted to any distance from the shore; with permission to land upon the coasts and shores of those Colonies and the islands thereof, and also upon the Magdalen Islands, for the purpose of drying their nets and curing their fish: provided that in so doing they do not interfere with the rights of private property, or with British fishermen in the peaceable use of any part of the said coast in their occupancy for the same purpose.

It is understood that the above mentioned liberty applies solely to the sea fishery, and that the salmon and shad fisheries, and all fisheries in rivers, and the mouths of rivers, are hereby reserved exclusively for British fishermen.—*Hertslet Treaties, Vol. IX.*

#### No. 4.

The inshore fisheries of a country are the heritage of the inhabitants of its coasts, sufficient in nearly every instance to provide them with all the necessities of life; but like all other supplies vouchsafed by nature to man, if a system of over cropping be persevered in, the water, like the land, becomes barren.

Mackerel have been driven off the coasts of the United States by over-fishing, and their vessels are now forced to seek in Canadian waters the fish which their own maritime territory no longer affords them. For many years past, from four to five hundred American vessels per season fish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy. Their take is equal to three-fourths of the whole Cod and Mackerel fishery of the United States, and is valued at \$12,000,000. It must be remembered, moreover, that they fish almost exclusively within three miles of the Canadian coast.

(See *Year Book of Canada*, 1868, p. 90. Letter from Secretary of Treasury in answer to Resolution of House of Representatives of 7th February, 1868. Ex. Doc. 240, pp. 12 and 13.)

The United States Tariff imposes a duty of \$2.00 a barrel upon foreign caught fish. Last year the license fee levied by our Government upon United States vessels fishing in Canadian waters was fifty cents a ton. This year the fee is to be \$2.00 per ton. Last year the tonnage of such vessels fishing in Canadian waters was estimated