

all these claims and interests. For the Provinces it was an unfair compromise. The right of registry and to trade coastwise was not conceded. The free interchange of the produce of the soil, the forest and the mine, was satisfactory. The right to navigate Lake Michigan was perfectly fair to both countries.

But the retention of the bounties gave to the fishermen of the United States an unfair advantage, and for the free navigation of the rivers and canals of British America no equivalents were given. To the maritime provinces the concession of the in-shore fisheries with the right to dry and cure fish upon their coasts, was particularly distasteful. So long as American fishermen were kept outside of a line drawn three marine miles from the headlands, as fixed by the Convention of 1818, the mackerel, herring, and ale wife fisheries were secure from intrusion within those limits, and the cod-fishery within the great bays of Newfoundland was a close preserve, while the protection of the revenue in all the Provinces gave the Governments but little concern. But the moment that American fishermen obtained the right to fish in all the bays, or harbours, and estuaries of British America, their line of operations was doubled in length, and the privilege, if they chose to use it, of carrying on illicit trade with the inhabitants of the sea coast, and of sending goods into the interior free of duty,