

the States in that year being about 43 per cent. of the aggregate catch, or nearly 1,500,000 dollars' worth.

Thus it would be seen that under the old Reciprocity Treaty our fishermen lost nothing by allowing their American neighbours to fish in our waters; on the contrary, they had gained in every way. The influence of a free market had acted as a stimulant on their energies, so that although their fishing-grounds were shared by American fishermen their total catch had increased 50 per cent.; and so beneficial was that free market found to be that the exports to the States had increased over 150 per cent. in the twelve years. Nothing could more clearly establish the two important facts that our fishermen have nothing to fear from fair competition with American fishermen in our own waters, and that the free access to the markets of the United States is of the greatest possible importance to us. The Treaty of Washington was decidedly more advantageous to the fishery interests of the Dominion than was the Reciprocity Treaty abolished in 1866. The privilege given by the Washington Treaty to vessels carrying the British flag to fish in United States' waters, it would be found, was no barren privilege, as had been asserted; for besides the privilege of fishing there, which our people might avail themselves of if they choose, we should now build fishing-vessels for our neighbours. We can build fishing vessels much cheaper than they can in the States. It was a fallacy to suppose that the American market was of no value to us. It is a fact that for the best brands of mackerel (Nos. 1 and 2) we had literally no market except that of the United States.

It is well known that large numbers of American vessels resort every spring to the Magdalen Islands; also to Fortune Bay, Newfoundland. Our vessels are driven away from these two fishing-fields because the duty in the United States on the kinds of fish caught there is prohibitory. By the Washington Treaty our fishermen will have these valuable fields of industry restored to them. The effect of the duty on pickled fish in the United States was equal to a tax of 600,000 dollars last year (1871) on the fishing interest of Nova Scotia. It had been stated with reference to the above figure that the duty on mackerel and herring shipped to the States in 1871 was only 90,000 dollars.

That was quite true, and went to prove that the duty was so nearly prohibitory that the export of larger quantities was prevented. For instance, the value of fish caught in Nova Scotia in 1871 was upwards of 5,000,000 dollars; of this quantity there were 228,152 barrels of mackerel, and 201,600 barrels of herrings, the duty on which, if shipped to the United States, would have been upwards of 650,000 dollars.

The benefit arising to us of the American inshore trade is more than an equivalent for the use of our inshore fisheries. Had the Washington Treaty been rejected our fishermen would have been deeply injured.

*Mr. Harrison.*—The privileges given to the Maritime Provinces for the sale of their fish is of very considerable value to them. There is an increased market of about 40,000,000 of people for their fish. Then the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces can live more cheaply than the American fishermen. They can build their vessels more cheaply, and, in addition to the American market, they will have a market at their own doors. If, under these favourable circumstances our fishermen are not able to compete with the fishermen of the United States, they are not the men we take them for. I have no doubt they will profit by the Treaty, and that they are alive to this fact is proved by the little, if any, opposition made to the Treaty by the Representatives in Parliament of the Maritime Provinces.

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*Extracts from Speeches delivered in the House of Assembly at St. John's, Newfoundland, in April 1873, in favour of the Fishery Articles of the Treaty of Washington.*

*Mr. J. I. Little, Q.C.*, said the question of the adoption of the Treaty of Washington by the Newfoundland House of Assembly had been under the consideration of the mercantile body of St. John's and the leading mercantile gentlemen of Conception Bay, who had, he believed, after mature consideration, assented to its acceptance by the Colony.

If we refused to ratify the Washington Treaty the fishermen of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Canada could supply the Americans with the produce of Newfoundland waters duty free.

With all the advantages of being located upon the spot, and of the comparatively small expense of outfits, it was not likely that our fishermen could be injured by the