

The United States rights are (since the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty) defined by the Convention of 1818, which gives them the right of fishing on the coasts of Newfoundland, Labrador, and the Magdalen Islands, but expressly precludes them from taking or curing fish within three miles of the coasts, bays, and harbors of the other Provinces.

During the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, this three mile limitation was abandoned in consideration of the right of free entry for our products into United States markets. It revived with the repeal of the Treaty, but, pending another adjustment of the matter, the Imperial and Colonial Governments have agreed to allow American vessels to fish within these limits on payment of a license fee of 50c. per ton—which most of them pay rather than risk confiscation—not as an equivalent for value, since if this were to be the case, the fee should be from \$5 to \$10 per ton, but rather as an acknowledgment of our sovereign rights. It is not to be expected that this arrangement will be other than temporary.

The right of licenses issued to American fishing craft in 1866 was as under:—

By Canada (Quebec and Ontario).....	10 vessels, paying	\$296.00
“ New Brunswick.....	1 “	13.00
“ Nova Scotia.....	354 “	9,368.50
“ Prince Edward Island.....	89 “	3,339.35

Total.....454 vessels, paying \$13,016.85

65 of the vessels licensed by Nova Scotia, and 21 of those licensed by Prince Edward Island, were afterwards spoken in Quebec waters.

The value of the fisheries is undoubtedly very great indeed.

I. *Value to the United States.*—There have often been between 400 and 500 United States fishing craft in the Gulf of St. Lawrence alone, with a tonnage of over 30,000, manned by over 6,000 men, taking fish to the value of over \$1,000,000.

In the Statistics of Massachusetts for 1865, we find the following return:—

Vessels Employed.	Tonnage.	Quintals of Cod.	Barrels of Mackerel.	Returns.
In Whale Fishing.....	70,420	\$6,618,670
In Cod and Mackerel do.....	117,146	384,165	283,000	4,832,218

The Cod and Mackerel fisheries were almost exclusively carried on in British waters, and Mr Derby, the U. S. Fishery Commissioner says, at page 46 of the report, that “Massachusetts has annually fitted out less than half the tonnage engaged in the Cod and Mackerel fisheries.”

The writer, moreover, finds that in the book of Statistics of Massachusetts, a serious error occurs. The value of the catch of vessels from one of the most important fishing towns is not carried out into the total; and if it were, the above figures would swell up to nearly \$3,000,000. Doubling this for the other States we shall have \$16,000,000 as the annual value of the U. S. Cod and Mackerel fisheries,—three-fourths of which are taken in British waters. Mr. Derby's estimate is \$12,000,000, but he bases it upon the erroneous Massachusetts figures.

II. *Value to the Provinces.*—It is not easier to arrive at the value of the fish caught by the fishermen of the Provinces than it is at that caught by those of the States, but the following figures are not far wrong, certainly not more than 20 per cent. wide of the truth:—

Value of produce of the fisheries, both for export and local consumption, for the year 1866—

Province of Nova Scotia.....	\$3,478,000
“ New Brunswick.....	867,000
“ Quebec.....	1,017,000
“ Ontario.....	901,000

Total for the Dominion.....6,263,000

Add Newfoundland (seals excluded,) estimate.....	4,440,000
“ Prince Edward Island (estimate).....	134,000

Total for British America (Atlantic side)....\$10,837,000

These figures include the produce of the salmon rivers of the Province of Quebec, which have for some little time been made the subject of special attention by the officers of Government. A system of leasing the salmon rivers has been adopted, under which the fishing becomes the exclusive property of the lessees. The fly fishing above tide water, and the net fishing at the mouths of these rivers, are let separately, and although the object sought is rather, in the first place, the multiplication of the fish under the influence of protection, the revenue is nevertheless considerable and annually increasing.

The amount collected from fishing licenses and fines in 1856 was \$9,267.

The owners of vessels built in Canada, licensed by the Superintendent of Fisheries or Collectors of Customs, and employed in fishing for seals, codfish, mackerel, herring or whale, receive bounties of

1. Three dollars a ton for 3 months' consecutive fishing.
2. Three dollars and a half a ton for 3½ months' do.
3. Four dollars a ton for 4 months' do.

But no vessel can receive bounty for more than one voyage per annum.

Vessels to be entitled to bounty must be manned as under:—

Vessels of from 20 to 40 tons.....	8 men.
“ 40 to 60 “.....	10 “
“ 60 to 80 “.....	12 “

Tonnage is calculated according to 22 Vic., c. 86, sec. 53. In 1866 54 vessels were licensed, and received as bounties \$3,174.

* The U. S. Census returns of 1860 are as inaccurate as ours of 1861. They give \$1,106,148 as the value of Cod and Mackerel caught by Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut fishermen. Our tables give \$1,440,000 for Newfoundland; \$2,562,000 for Nova Scotia; \$389,325 for New Brunswick; \$272,532 for Prince Edward Island; and adding an estimate for Lower Canada of \$701,000, the writer arrived at \$3,362,707 as the value of sea fish caught in the Provinces in 1860. (See Prize Essay on the Reciprocity Treaty, 1865.)