

by all civilized nations, the line should be drawn from headland to headland of all bays of British coasts, "irrespective of the configuration of any part of the coast, or the formation or extent of its indentations," and that American fishermen were not at liberty to approach for fish within three miles of such a line. The Americans, on the other hand, have contended "for an exceptional application of the law of nations, as regarded bodies of water such as the bays of Fundy and Chaleurs, and other indents along the sea coast of the British North American Colonies, in which United States' fishermen were formerly wont to pursue and capture the fishes of the sea, or to which they still resorted to take bait," maintaining that the headland line should not be applied to any bays or indents that were more than 6 miles wide at the mouth, but that in such cases the line should follow the sinuosities of the shore, at a distance of 3 miles therefrom.

Seizures  
of Ame-  
rican ves-  
sels, 1818-  
1854.

578. The Americans, however, from 1818 to 1854, acquiesced in the British construction, and numerous seizures were made by British cruisers from time to time of American vessels found fishing, cleaning and packing fish, purchasing bait and supplies, and anchoring without proper reason, within the limit.

Effect of  
the Reci-  
procity  
Treaty.

579. By the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 the 3-mile limit was removed, and with it, for the time, all cause of dissension. When, however, in 1866, the United States' Government voluntarily determined that treaty (*see ante*, paragraph 341), the privileges of American fishermen were once more subject to the provisions of the Convention of 1818.

Adoption  
of license  
system in  
1866.

580. In deference to the express wishes of the Imperial Government, who were desirous of avoiding dangerous complications, the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick reluctantly consented not to immediately enforce their strict rights, and accordingly adopted the temporary