

men, that our Trade and industry must succumb to the influences they will have to encounter. The direct interference of the French with the prosecution of our pursuits on the one hand, and the increase of their bounty-sustained trade on the other—while lessening the amount of our produce, must lead to the further result of making that smaller production of less relative value than before.

Nova Scotia has a large interest on the coasts on which this Convention proposes to give the subjects of France concurrent rights of fishing, and in the proportion of that interest, will this measure be productive to her of the like results that we anticipate.

This act of the British Government has been received here with a common feeling of indignation and alarm, and there is the less of palliation for this concession to the French, since the consequences of such a measure have been repeatedly urged in Despatches from the Local Government.

The Convention, it is true, makes the assent of this Colony, by the passing of certain Laws, necessary to give it effect.

On this point, I have but to observe, that not only will no such assent be given by the Legislature, but the people with one voice have determined that every just and honorable means shall be employed to defeat a project so fraught with ruin to every interest in the Colony.

In pursuance of this determination, the Legislature are appealing to Her Majesty and the Imperial Parliament, and will send a Delegation to sustain their rights.

We are unwilling to believe that the British Government or the Imperial Parliament would permit the ratification of such a measure without our consent and in defiance of the principles our Constitution embodies. But the great importance of the interest involved, and the fact that the British Government has acceded to the Convention in the face of the strong protests that for years have gone from this Colony, produces in our minds a feeling of shaken confidence, and compel us to admit that our position is one of extreme peril. Nor will it mitigate the effect of the Treaty, should it be confirmed—that it involves the broken faith of a Parent Government to the oldest North American Dependency of the Crown.