

"Foreign Office, February 20, 1852.

"I have looked over with attention your memorandum on our North American Colonial Fisheries, and I find nothing to add to it.

"All the discussions which have taken place with the United States for the adjustment of the interests of the Colonial Fisheries having come to nothing, I am of opinion that it would be useless to renew them.

"Our Treaties do not seem to interfere in any way to prevent our colonists granting bounties to their respective fisheries. I conceive, therefore, that it may be right to let them spend their money, whether wisely or otherwise, in their own way.

"With respect to the cruizers furnished by our Admiralty, the question appears to me to turn upon whether the Imperial purposes could not be as well served by such small vessels or small war-steamers, calculated to protect the fisheries, as by the larger ships now employed.

"If such small vessels would not be applicable for such Imperial purposes, then the colonists who require them should pay for them, which process would probably soon convince the colonists of the truth of your arguments."

A despatch has been lately received by the present Secretary of State for the Colonies from the Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island, transmitting a joint Address unanimously agreed to by both Houses of the Legislature of that colony, praying that the restrictions of the Treaty of 1818 may be removed, provided the American Government will admit on terms of reciprocity, articles the growth or production of Prince Edward Island; whilst from the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia a despatch has been received, transmitting a petition from merchants and others, entreating that prompt and decided measures may be taken to prevent the intrusion of American fishermen within the limits from which they are excluded by Treaty, and that the negotiation for conceding to the United States the right of fishing on the coasts of the province, may be suspended until the question can be reconsidered by the Imperial Government.

See Page 32,
Despatch No. 9, Feb. 12, 1852.

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