

6th. During my visit to England I had the privilege of conferring with the Right Honorable the Secretary for Scotland in reference to the prosecution of the Whale Fishery. That gentleman has recently caused an inquiry to be made respecting the prosecution of that Industry off the coasts of Norway and Scotland. I have been favoured with all the evidence collected and with the conclusion of the Committee of Investigation. The information at my disposal shall be used for the benefit of all who are interested in that important industry, and before more licenses to capture whales are issued, enquiry shall be made as to the effect of that industry upon the other fisheries of the Colony.

7th. In view of the fact that the well-being of the people of this country is so largely dependent upon the success of the fishermen, and that, in all other countries where the fisheries are regarded as of importance, scientific oversight and direction is considered essential, I shall take immediate steps to bring the Fishery Department up to a proper state of efficiency.

8th. As you are aware in the year 1902 I succeeded in negotiating a Treaty with the Government of the United States of America for a measure of reciprocal trade. Up to date, by reason of the opposition of the fishery interests of Gloucester, the ratification of that Treaty has been held in abeyance, while the opponents of the measure have been enjoying the privileges that this Colony was to confer in exchange for free admission of the products of our mines and fisheries to the markets of the United States. The Government have permitted this, believing that at the recent Session of the Senate the Treaty would be confirmed. It is neither politic nor profitable that this condition of things shall continue indefinitely. Unless the present movement in the United States looking to the ratification of our Convention is successful, I shall at the next session of the Legislature adopt another course of procedure.

9th. Next in importance to the fisheries is the Mining Industry. The Government have fostered it in the manner that I have previously described, but it appears to me that something further can be done by assisting in the examination of mineral deposits and the smelting of ores. This industry shall receive further encouragement.

10th. The Lumber Industry shall be fostered. There is but very little doubt but that the greater part of the immense destruction of forest wealth and loss of other property, that has taken place during the past year, has been occasioned by the Railway locomotives. The Government of the Dominion of Canada found it necessary last year to enact a Law compelling the Railway Companies to maintain and "keep its right of way free from dead or dry grass, weeds and other unnecessary combustible matter," and providing that "whenever damage is caused to lands, crops, fences, plantations or buildings and their contents by fire started by a Railway locomotive, the Company making use of such locomotive, whether guilty of negligence or not, shall be liable for such damage."