

to carry off that article, if a freight outward cannot be secured; unless indeed, they will consent that the whole burthen of the voyage shall be charged with the other expenses, upon the commodity home to Europe;—there is no other article, but salt,—unless it be store goods, in a very limited degree, that will furnish that outward freight. If timber and salt should fail, and consequently the fisheries, from what source is the Treasury to be filled? In truth, they all depend for success upon each other, and, reasonably supported, they will all do well.

It is now a considerable number of years since the successive Halifax Committees began to solicit the Legislature to grant eventual bounties on salt, as the surest relief in their opinions, which the Fisheries could receive, and they have always requested that the same should be enacted for a series of years, in order that the merchants at home may feel assured of support;—for if such a bounty is granted during one year only—it expires nearly before the English merchants can send cargoes out in season—and their experience has proved to them that hitherto there has been no dependence upon a like bounty in a second year.

The Committee is well aware that the revenues of the Province have their limits; and that the effects of the peace have greatly curtailed even those resources, which proved very ample during the last years of the war;—but they yet hope that adequate means will, notwithstanding, be found to grant some stimulant to the Agriculture of the Province at large; as every well-wisher to its commerce, feeling a desire to increase the exports to the West-Indies and Newfoundland, must be convinced that the produce of the country will ever furnish a most important proportion of the supplies to those places.

The Labrador fishery for Cod, Salmon, and Small Fish, is one of very great interest, and has often, during many years, occupied the sedulous attention of the Halifax Committees;—for there was a period when the States American vessels, resorted to those shores in such excessive numbers, and the crews conducted themselves with such gross improprieties towards His Majesty's Subjects, under claim of right, founded on the third article of the treaty of 1783, that the British Fishermen could no longer contend with them. It has been ordered by His Majesty's Ministers, that this third article, as far as it relates to the resort of vessels belonging to the United States, should be considered as null and void, from the period at which the late war with that nation commenced, and instructions have been given to this effect to the several superintending officers upon these northern stations. But the Halifax Committee has been lately informed that there was a considerable resort of States American fishing vessels upon the Labrador shores during the late season—The Committee, being of opinion that this fishery, if kept clear of intruders, will prove highly beneficial, have it in contemplation to address