

PRINCE
EDWARD
ISLAND.

" Colony have always hoped that these fisheries" (the fisheries of Prince Edward Island) " would have done much to secure the advantages of another Reciprocity Treaty, or of " some tariff concessions authorizing the free admission " (into the United States) " of the " products of our agriculturists, who form the majority of our population, and which " would have resulted in promoting the prosperity of the Colony ;" and that in the opinion of the Council the inhabitants of Prince Edward Island are now asked " to " surrender to the citizens of the United States these invaluable fisheries without " receiving, in return, any just or fair equivalent such as was hoped to be obtained." In deference, however, to the strongly expressed wish of Her Majesty's Government in the matter, the Committee of the Executive Council (without giving any pledge as to the ultimate action of the Legislature) recommend " that the application made by the " United States' Government be acceded to, so that American fishermen may be at once " allowed, during the present season, the provisional use of the privileges granted to them " by the Treaty ;" and I have the honour to report that the Custom House officers were yesterday instructed to discontinue the enforcement of the fishery laws for the present season and until further orders.

3. I caused the United States' Consul at this port to be notified accordingly, and I simultaneously dispatched a similar notice to Sir Edward Thornton by telegraph.

4. I may add that in the event of the Acts necessary to give effect to the Treaty being passed by the Legislature of Prince Edward Island, my Government will apply to your Lordship for permission to send a representative to Halifax for the purpose of conferring with the agent of the Imperial Government, whose appointment is provided for in the concluding paragraph of Article 23 of the Treaty, and of urging upon him the claims of this Island to a just share, proportionate to the value of our fisheries, of whatever compensation may be awarded as an equivalent for the privileges which the colonists are asked to surrender. My Government are, of course, aware that Great Britain and the United States are to be represented before the Halifax Commission each by one agent only, but they believe that it would be competent to Her Majesty's Government to authorize the Imperial agent as aforesaid to receive information on the subject of our fisheries from a representative to be appointed by the Government of Prince Edward Island ; and this, should the Legislature assent to the Treaty, is what my Government hope that your Lordship will be pleased to accord.

5. I am confident that your Lordship will receive with much satisfaction the intimation contained in this Despatch, and that the prompt and loyal action of the Government of Prince Edward Island will predispose Her Majesty's Government to comply, as far as possible, with any reasonable request which my Advisers may consider it to be their duty to prefer.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure in
No. 2.

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Council Chamber, July 17, 1871.

At a meeting of a Committee of the Executive Council of Prince Edward Island—present, The Hon. Mr. Pope, the Hon. Mr. Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Mr. Attorney-General, the Hon. Mr. Owen, the Hon. Mr. Richards :

The Committee of Council having under consideration Despatch, No. 22, dated at Downing Street, the 17th of June, 1871, from the Right Hon. Earl of Kimberley, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to his Honour Lieutenant-Governor Robinson, together with copies of the Treaty signed at Washington on the eighth day of May, and of protocols of the conferences held by the Commission, of two notes which have passed between Sir Edward Thornton and Mr. Secretary Fish, and of a Despatch addressed to the Governor-General of Canada, stating the views of Her Majesty's Government on these important documents, Her Majesty's Government in the Despatch first referred to strongly urge upon the Government of this Island that, for reasons stated in the Despatch from the Earl of Kimberley to Lord Lisgar, the same course should be pursued as in 1854, and the application made by the United States' Government acceded to by Prince Edward Island, so that American fishermen may be at once allowed, during the present season, the provisional use of the privileges granted to them by the Treaty.

Have respectfully to submit that Prince Edward Island is the most fertile and productive Province in British North America, in proportion to its extent ; that the natural market for its principal productions is to be found in the United States, as was very satisfactorily proved during the continuation of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 ; that the fisheries of this Island are the best and most valuable in America, and are much appreciated by the fishermen of the United States ; that the different Governments and Legislatures of this Colony have always hoped that these fisheries would have done much to secure the advantages of another Reciprocity Treaty, or of some tariff concessions authorizing the free admission of the products of our agriculturists, who form the majority of our population, and which would have resulted in promoting the prosperity of the Colony. That by the Treaty now under consideration, the inhabitants