

Correspondence respecting the Non-admission of Fish and Fish Oils, the produce of British Columbia, into the United States, Free of Duty, under the Treaty of Washington of May 8, 1871.

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No. 1.

*Sir E. Thornton to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, April 12, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from the Governor-General of Canada, and of its inclosures, relating to the refusal of the United States' Customs authorities to allow the importation free of duty of fish and fish oil from British Columbia, in accordance with the provisions of Article XXI of the Treaty of May 8, 1871.

His Excellency requests me to take such action in the matter as I may think proper; but as British Columbia did not form a part of the Dominion of Canada when the above-mentioned Treaty was signed, I hesitate to make any representation to the Government of the United States upon the subject until I shall receive your Lordship's instructions to do so.

It is, however, true that the United States' Act of Congress of March 1, 1873, when British Columbia certainly did form a part of the Dominion of Canada, enacts that fish oil and fish, being the produce of the fisheries of the Dominion of Canada, and of Prince Edward Island, shall be admitted into the United States free of duty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Sir E. Thornton.*

Sir,

*Government House, Ottawa, April 8, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour of inclosing, for such action as you may think proper, a copy of an approved report of a Committee of the Privy Council respecting the denial on the part of the United States' authorities of the right of the Province of British Columbia to participate in those provisions of the Treaty of Washington under which fish and fish oil, or the produce of Canadian fisheries, are entitled to admission into the United States free of duty.

I have forwarded a copy of the Minute of Council for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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