

ment can only return an answer to the memorialists similar to that given to a recent memorial from the inhabitants of the West Coast of Newfoundland, which was transmitted in the Governors despatch of the 16th of March last. These memorialists, amongst other things, requested free access to the Coast for the purpose of mining, ship-building and all other operations, and grants of land unhampered by certain conditions which were then referred to.

The reply given to the memorialists as to free access to the Coast for mining operations, was to the effect that this matter was, to a great extent, dealt with in the arrangement of 1885, which, much to the regret of Her Majesty's Government, was rejected by the Newfoundland Legislature; that until some fresh arrangement should have been made with the French in the matter of the fisheries, such free access as is desired for the purpose mentioned could not be given by Her Majesty's Government; and with respect to the question of the issue of grants of land unhampered by the conditions subjecting such grants to a reservation in favor of French rights, the memorialists were informed that Her Majesty's Government regretted that they were unable, in the present position of the Fishery Question, to meet the wishes of the memorialists. The memorialists were, however, assured that any favorable opportunity which might present itself for arriving at a settlement with the Government of France of the general question of the fisheries would not be neglected by Her Majesty's Government.

THE "MODUS VIVENDI."

The next information that the people of Newfoundland received, relative to the taking of Lobsters by the French, was in a public telegram received at the Athenæum Reading-room, on the 14th of March last, which stated that "England and France have agreed to *Modus Vivendi* with Newfoundland to extend right of fishing and canning Lobsters to parties under strict obligations not to molest each other."

On the same day the following message was sent by the Governor to the Legislative Assembly:—

FROM T. O'BRIEN, Lt.-Col., Governor.

"The Governor herewith sends a telegram received from the Right Honourable Secretary of State for the Colonies, received on the 12th day of March present, relative to the *modus vivendi* entered into between the British and French governments, relative to the establishment of Lobster Factories on the coast of Newfoundland, where the French enjoy rights of fishing conferred by Treaties.