

Report of Select Committee
on Fishery Convention.

The hon. the ATTORNEY GENERAL, Chairman of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Convention entered into between Great Britain and France, of the 14th January, 1857, relating to the Fisheries of this Colony, and to prepare Resolutions and Addresses on the said subject, presented the Report, which he handed in at the Clerk's Table where the same was read as follows :—

*House of Assembly, Committee Room,
26th February, 1857.*

The Select Committee appointed by this House to take into consideration the Convention with France, signed on the 14th January, 1857, at London, beg to report that they have taken evidence on the subject, which, with certain Resolutions, and a Memorial passed thereon, they most respectfully submit :

P. F. LITTLE, *Chairman.*
J. KENT
R. PROWSE
W. H. ELLIS
H. W. HOYLES
R. J. PARSONS.

1. *Resolved*,—That the British Coastal Fisheries, within the jurisdiction of our Colonial Government, although common and free to all British Subjects, are yet, in a peculiar manner, the undoubted property of the people of Newfoundland : and while they are subject to the Sovereignty of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen and her legal prerogatives, they cannot be alienated or shared with any Foreign Power, without the consent of the Local Legislature.

2. *Resolved*,—That the property in the territory subject to the Government of this Colony, having been transferred to the Local Government, and become the subject of Legislative enactment, no part thereof can, according to the laws of the land, be granted to any Foreign Power, without the passing of a Law by the Local Legislature for that purpose.

3. *Resolved*,—That in making the Convention with France, in January, 1857, dependent for validity upon the concurrence of the Local Legislature, the Imperial Government have, in the most unqualified manner, recognised our rights, as declared in the preceding Resolutions.