

believing that no injury would be done to their interests, or to the interests of the surrounding colonies by the extension of the Fishery privileges to American citizens, and knowing also, that the insignificant Revenue derived from Fishery Licenses is altogether unworthy of consideration, when compared with the immense advantages to be derived from Free Trade with the United States, and consider themselves hardly dealt with when so small a favor of the Imperial Government to grant, but so great a boon for them to receive as the concession of the Local Government of power to grant Fishing Licenses to American citizens at a nominal price is denied them, seeing as they do, that the useless and disregarded restrictions on the coast fishing are the sole obstruction to unrestricted commercial intercourse between them and the United States, and the great barrier to their prosperity as a people.

*Therefore Resolved.* That the House of Assembly in taking into consideration the Despatches from His Lordship Earl Granville, wherein is conveyed the decision of Her Majesty's Government to the effect that they are not prepared at the present moment to take any steps in consequence of the Report of the Executive Council, trust that Her Majesty's Government will adopt such measures as will ensure to this island the benefits of reciprocal free trade with the United States, even if the same cannot be secured for Her Majesty's other British North American Colonies.

I am very sorry that this subject which is of so much importance and demands so much consideration should have been postponed until this late hour of the Session. At this moment there are thousands of bushels of produce in our Island which we cannot dispose of at a profitable rate on account of the American market being closed against us. Now, it is of vast importance that Free Trade should be established between this Island and the United States, and the only impediment to the accomplishment of it is, the refusal of the Home Government to give us the control of the Fishery around our coasts. These restrictions are useless, for although it has been said that the British Government protected the fishery, it has not been done. It has been said that during the last year, there has been British Men-of-War at Georgetown, but they must have staid there, for I do not think they have ever been seen on the North Side. We have a just right to these fisheries, for we have been obliged to run the Island in debt to purchase the land for the people, we have no mines or minerals, we have no communication with the rest of the world during a great part of the year, except by the very precarious means of Ice Boats, and on this account we should have a little consideration from the Home Government. The fact of the matter is, the people of Great Britain take very little interest in the affairs of this Island, they know such a place exists and that is about the extent of their knowledge. I bring forward this resolution to show the British Government our opinions on the subject.

The Speaker took the Chair and the Chairman reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

A message was received from the Legislative Council saying that they agreed to a Free Conference on the Bill to regulate the sale of Kerosene Oil.

On motion of the hon. Leader of the Government the Order of a committee to bring in a Bill for additional Land Assessment was discharged.

House again in committee on despatches.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—Regarding the resolution now before the Committee, I may say that I have expressed my opinions on this subject pretty freely on a former occasion, and there is no necessity for me to say much at the present time. It is the duty of every member of this House, to do all he can to forward reciprocity, as it is essential to the prosperity of the people of this Colony. It will be useless for the farmers to sow or reap, except so far as required for our own use, unless we can get a market for it. It is not to be expected that the prices of produce will continue high in the British market, and it is necessary that we should look for a market in the United States.

MR. SPEAKER.—I think the hon. member (Mr. Bell) was very dilatory in not bringing this resolution forward at an earlier period in the session, for he was well aware that the House was to rise to-day.

MR. BELL.—I trusted the matter to the hon. Leader of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER.—Of course we are all desirous to get a renewal of the reciprocity, so that we may get a market for our surplus produce. We have not suffered so much from the abrogation of this treaty as might have been expected, for we have found other markets; but these are now getting over-stocked. We have been doing all we could to induce farmers to cultivate their land with skill, and thus raise large quantities of produce, but we are deprived of the privilege of taking it to a market where the prices would be remunerative. If this resolution had been brought in sooner and an Address forwarded to Her Majesty, it might have been the means of inducing the British Government to give us what we desire. The hon. member, (Mr. Bell,) has said that no protection was afforded to our fishery, but he is astray on that point, for to my certain knowledge, British vessels have been in Three Rivers, Gaspe and Port Hood; but the instructions given to the Captains, as they informed me, was that they were obliged to give any American vessel notice three times before any action could be taken, and as no vessel would remain on the fishing ground to be notified three times, the whole affair was a burlesque.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Every hon. member is of the same opinion, as regards the importance of this subject, and yet the Government have lain on their oars and let this matter rest until now, when we are expecting every moment to hear the tap of the Black Rod summoning