

Thirdly.—That this house indignantly protests against that part of the treaty which gives to foreigners an equal right to use the coasts and shores of this colony, subject only to such exceptions as commissioners may please to make in favor of actual occupants, and which, as if in contempt of the essential right of freemen, makes it dependent on the turn of the dice whether an interest so important in all its aspects shall not be placed in the hands of three commissioners, of whom two shall be citizens of the United States.

This house denies the right of lord Elgin to concoct, and of the imperial government to ratify, a stipulation by which no Nova Scotian fisherman can place his foot on any portion of his native coast in the confidence of its exclusive enjoyment, and by which a foreign power is sanctioned to intrude upon our shores throughout their whole extent, under a title which, if well founded, would be paramount as emanating from the crown, and may be made the pretext of setting at naught the authority of the legislature and government of this province, and at the caprice of a foreign state be vindicated by force and the cannon.

Fourthly.—That the terms of the treaty are unequal and unjust, because the right it gives to British subjects to fish on the American coast is valueless and delusive, and because the free interchange of commodities for which it provides, (and the great value of which to this province this house most freely admits), if the principles of free trade be sound, is in itself of reciprocal and equal advantage to both parties, and hence the fisheries of Nova Scotia have been given up without equivalent, and the withholding of the right of American registry for our ships, and a free and reciprocal coasting trade, was inconsistent with justice and fair dealing.

Lastly.—That the legislature of this province is placed in a position inconsistent with the independence and dignity that belong to the representatives of British subjects—called upon to deliberate on a question of the deepest moment to their country after the principal subject of deliberation has been arbitrarily removed from their control; and invited to discuss the adoption or rejection on their part of a treaty, after the object of most value has been absolutely alienated without their concurrence and beyond their recall. And those members of this house who are of opinion that the territorial right conceded to the United States ought not to be surrendered, may be compelled as an act of necessity to acquiesce in a measure which, had they the power, they would reject, as incompatible alike with the honor and the interest of their country.

Which being seconded,

Consideration made
order of day

Ordered, That the resolution be printed, and that the house do to-morrow proceed to the consideration thereof.

Then the house adjourned until to-morrow, at three of the clock.

THURSDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 1854.

PRAYERS.

Resolution for grant-
ing £2000 sterling to
widows and orphans,
passed

On motion of the hon. the attorney general,

Resolved unanimously, That his excellency the lieutenant governor be authorized to draw from the public treasury, and remit to the committee in charge of the patriotic fund in London, the sum of two thousand pounds, sterling—to be applied towards the relief, education, and support of the widows and orphans of those soldiers, sailors, and marines, who may have fallen, or may hereafter fall, in battle, or die on active service during the present war.

Sent to council

Ordered, That the clerk do carry the resolution to the council and desire their concurrence.

Select committee as to
provincial horses

On motion of the hon. the financial secretary,

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed to report as to the keeping and disposal of the provincial horses lately imported.

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