

Inclosure 3 in No. 119.

Minute.

In Council, July 31, 1849.

Present:

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, &c.

WHEREAS the commercial depression prevailing in the British North American provinces imperatively require that the respective Governments should immediately adopt some united action for the purpose of devising such remedial measures as may be considered necessary. The Government of New Brunswick would propose that a Conference should be held at Halifax, at as early a day as practicable, to consist of two members from each Government to deliberate upon the commercial interests of the Colonies, and to devise such measures as, in their opinion, may be best suited to the present emergency, that the result of such Conference be reported to the respective Governments and, if approved, transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

That this Government, impressed with the value and importance of a reciprocal trade with the United States, would, if necessary for its attainment, readily consent to such modifications of the existing Treaties relating to fisheries, as would admit the United States to a full participation therein.

Extract from the Minutes.

(Signed) R. FULTON.

At a Council held at the Government House at Halifax on the 8th day of August,
A.D. 1849.

Present:

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, &c.

HIS Excellency having laid before the Council a letter addressed to the Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick inclosing a Minute of Council passed in that province, suggesting a Conference to be held at Halifax on the 1st of September next, to consider whether any and what measures can be devised to revive and extend the trade of the North American provinces.

The Provincial Secretary is instructed to acquaint Mr. Partelow that the Government of Nova Scotia assent to the conference proposed, and will be prepared to enter upon the discussion of intercolonial questions in a fair and friendly spirit, but that, in assenting to such conference, it must be clearly understood that no pledge is given by the Government of Nova Scotia to approve the policy of throwing open the fisheries as the price of reciprocal trade with the United States.

No. 120.

Mr. Elliot to Mr. Addington.—(Received September 25.)

Sir,

Colonial Office, September 24, 1849.

WITH reference to my letter of the 17th instant, I am directed by Earl Grey to transmit to you, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of two despatches from the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, in the former of which is inclosed a copy of the proceedings of the Conference of Delegates, held at Halifax, on the 3rd and 4th instant, on the subject of the commercial affairs of the British North American Provinces; and, in the latter, a Report of a Committee of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia on the subject of the fisheries of that Province. With regard to the latter, Lord Grey thinks it right to call Lord Palmerston's attention to the evidence it affords of the difficulty of enforcing against the fishermen of the United States the exclusive rights of fishery which have been reserved to British subjects on the coasts of the British Provinces in America, and of the fact that the sympathy of the inhabitants of