

Government by the delegates, and not after formal negotiations had been entered into with the United States and the draft convention agreed to.

“*Resolved*,—That in the opinion of this House Her Majesty’s Government are in honour bound to complete the negotiations which were entered upon and concluded so far as this Colony is concerned in good faith.”

No. 63.

SIR TERENCE O'BRIEN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

(Received March 8, 1891.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

7th March, 1891. Referring to my telegram of to-day,* following is text of paragraph in Address to which serious objection was taken by me: “It is highly satisfactory to know that your Ministers have, with the express sanction of the Imperial Government, concluded a treaty of reciprocal trade with the United States through Her Majesty’s Plenipotentiary and the United States Secretary of State; but this satisfaction is seriously diminished by the intimation which your Excellency has conveyed, that the Imperial Government has withheld its assent to this convention; our disappointment is the more deepened from the knowledge that Her Majesty’s Government authorized a delegate from this Colony to conduct the negotiations which led to a convention so advantageous to both countries; we cannot close our eyes to the fact that Her Majesty’s Government, in adopting a course fraught with such disastrous consequences to this Colony, has been influenced by regard for the interests of a neighbouring Dominion, and a disregard for those of the oldest and most unfavourably treated Colony of Her Majesty’s Empire.

“The neglect to which this Colony is continually subjected must no doubt be attributed to the ignorance prevailing in the mother country respecting Newfoundland, a Colony which, with its dependencies, exceeds in area all the other Atlantic maritime provinces of British North America, that the interests therefore of such a Colony, with its inexhaustible fisheries, its boundless mineral wealth, its immense tracts of agricultural and timber lands, its magnificent bays and harbours, and from its geographical situation unsurpassed as a strategical position in the event of military or naval hostilities on this side of the Atlantic, should be made subservient to the party politics of a rival Colony, whose irritating policy has provoked and estranged a neighbouring friendly nation to which it is allied by the ties of a similarity of laws and language, race and religion, is calculated to call forth the just indignation of a people already suffering from the baneful effects of a century of misconstruction of French treaty rights on their shores; it is a subject of congratulation, however, to be informed that your Excellency’s Ministers are using every effort to obtain the assent of Her Majesty’s Government to this Convention.”

No. 64.

LORD KNUTSFORD to SIR TERENCE O'BRIEN.

SIR, Downing Street, March 12, 1891.
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 16th February,† forwarding the Resolutions passed by both Houses of the Legislature on the subject of the course taken by Her Majesty’s Government with regard to the proposed convention with the United States.

The purport of these Resolutions had previously been communicated to me in your telegram of the 13th February,‡ and, as I informed you in my reply of the 17th§ of that month, full explanations of the action of Her Majesty’s Government in this matter were contained in my Despatch of the 12th February,|| which I requested you to present to the Legislature. I have since received your telegrams of the 7th March¶ reporting further Resolutions passed by the House of Assembly on the 6th instant.

* No. 62.
|| No. 55.

† No. 61.

‡ No. 58.

§ No. 59.

¶ Nos. 62 and 63.