

admission to the States of Prince Edward Island produce and shipping; but he thinks that he can secure an addition to such resolutions, to the effect that if this be not agreed to at Washington, the Convention of 1818 ought to be strictly enforced. The question, therefore, arises, whether, if the Congress continue to reject the general measure of reciprocal free trade, which is desired by the colonies, the Convention of 1818 should not be enforced, and stringent measures adopted to repress the illegal traffic of the Americans; or whether a separate proposition respecting fisheries and shipping, should not be addressed to the United States' Government.

Upon these two questions, the late Secretary of State for the Colonies has observed, in a Minute recorded in this office, that "the right policy would be, to endeavour by negotiation with the United States, to induce them to abolish the present differential duty on British fish, and the bounty given to their own, giving in return to American fishermen leave to fish as freely as our own on the coasts of the British provinces, with no other restrictions than may be necessary for the maintenance of the rights of individuals to fisheries in the mouths of rivers, &c. Even if no such arrangement can be concluded with the Government of the United States, I think no bounties ought to be granted to our fishermen; and that while the right of fishing ought not to be conceded to American fishermen on our coasts, no attempt should be made to enforce the prohibition or prevent a practical freedom of interchange between our fishermen and those of the United States. The effect of this would be precisely the same as that of the present system on the eastern shores of this country. The French fishing-boats come annually from Calais and Boulogne in large numbers for our herring fishery, and though the fishermen, to get the French bounty, are compelled on their return to declare that their fish are of their own catching, it is notorious that they seldom even shoot their nets, but buy their fish from our fishermen, who thus virtually receive a large share of the bounty granted by the French Government. This is now so well understood, that the fishermen on our coast, who twenty years ago were always making