

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN

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HARBOUR GRACE WEDNESDAY MARCH 11.

The following Petition has been adopted by the Committee on the Fishery Convention question, and is now in course of signature:—

To HER MAJESTY'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS OF HARBOUR GRACE

We your Majesty's, dutiful and loyal subjects the Inhabitants of Harbour Grace, in the Island of Newfoundland; approach the foot of Your Majesty's Throne, to lay before your most Gracious Majesty, the expression of our astonishment and alarm, at the Convention entered into on the Fifteenth January last by your Majesty, and the Emperor of the French, by which it is proposed to give to the subjects of France, further extensive and valuable fishing privileges on the Coasts of this Colony.

We feel, that we cannot appeal to your Majesty in vain in the present momentous crisis, when we reflect on the care and solicitude, with which the Sovereigns of Great Britain, have always watched over their Colonies; nor, that, and we would earnestly thank your Majesty for your Gracious recognition of our Constitutional rights, engrafted in the twentieth article of the Convention; by which it shall come into operation until the laws required to carry it into effect be passed by the Imperial Parliament, and the Provincial Legislature of the Island.

We would state for your Majesty's information, that this Convention if carried into effect, so far from removing for the future all cause of misunderstanding between your Majesty's subjects, and those of France; will tend to exacerbate former difficulties a thousand fold, and lead to a ruinous collision, not only with the Inhabitants of Newfoundland, but with those of the other Provinces who have the right to fish upon our coasts.

That the Proposed Concessions of our Fishing Grounds at Labrador, and Belle Isle, to the French, will undoubtedly annihilate the source of industry of thousands of your Majesty's subjects, who too, renounce there a century ago, when driven with their Fathers from the Northern Coasts of this Island, to make way for the French to serve Imperial interests; and having then reached the utmost limits of our Fisheries, nothing will now be left us but to starve upon the barren rocks of our native shores; or emigrate to some other country, to seek for that protection which has been denied us in our own. That the Proposed Concessions of the French as an equivalent for our Fishing grounds, and the right (ruinous to us) of fishing in our South western Coast, are utterly valueless and altogether delusive, leaving us no longer any hope of successful competition in the Fisheries of our country, with rivals whose object is not Commercial enterprise, but the raising up of a Naval power; as may be clearly seen from the enormous amount granted annually from the Imperial Treasury, for the object not less than £500,000 sterling, or £10 for every man engaged in the Fishery. We therefore implore your Majesty, to avert from the Inhabitants of this your ancient and loyal Colony, the operation of a measure, which will deprive them of the only means of support for themselves and their families, and to continue to us the fishery rights of our Coast, which we hold to be as inalienable as the Home-steads of any of your Majesty's subjects; the loss of which would compel us to leave the country of our birth or adoption; what this of itself depends not of the British Crown in North America, would change its character, and be one, in reality if not in name, an abridgement of the Empire of France.

And Your Petitioners beg, &c., &c.

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE FISHERY CONVENTION.

In moving the 4th Resolution Mr. Arthur Thomy said, Gentlemen I stand before you to submit this Resolution for the consideration of the people of Newfoundland, I have seen 45 years ago etc I with the Fisheries, and from my experience can truly say that if in addition to what we have already seen the right of fishing in the Labrador are to be given to the French, the People of this Country, and Newfoundland, as well as a British Colony are doomed to perish. The French already possess the best fishing ground in Newfoundland, we are not allowed to meddle with them, and the loss to the people of this Country cannot be estimated. The concession of our property upon the Labrador, it is impossible to say what may be the consequence, or what amount of evil awaits the people of Conception Bay, and for this and other reasons the whole population of this Country, I would beseech our Rulers what have we to live upon, but the produce of the waters of that part of Newfoundland which has been left to us, and of the Labrador? and would they take from us that which our own by birthright, and by occupation? The Convention is a measure, which will deprive them of the only means of support for themselves and their families, and to continue to us the fishery rights of our Coast, which we hold to be as inalienable as the Home-steads of any of your Majesty's subjects; the loss of which would compel us to leave the country of our birth or adoption; what this of itself depends not of the British Crown in North America, would change its character, and be one, in reality if not in name, an abridgement of the Empire of France.

our lives. Resolved.—That the Inhabitants of this district (comprising nearly one third of the Population of the Island) would by all means in their power, resist the concession of their privileges to rivals who have ever evinced a disposition to encroach upon our Fishing Ground; and moreover, who are sustained by an enormous bounty which sets all hope of successful competition at defiance.

Mr. Thomas Higgins said Gentlemen from my Position it is not to be expected that I can do justice to this Resolution, it may be thought that I have little to do with, and consequently feel little upon the subject, it is true that such men as my friend Mr. Thomy are better qualified to speak upon such questions but we are all equally interested, and the subject is of the greatest importance to every man in the Country. We ought not to renounce our rights against the yielding up of our property to the French, the men who consented to such a sacrifice must be sadly imposed upon, or they would never have consented to take from the people of this Country, the very means of living, for the benefit of French men, our duty is clearly to protest against this alienation of our rights, we are British Subjects, the Imperial Government must consider our claim in that light, and we will be heard by petition.

Mr. Deveroux said, This Resolution has been put in my hands and it is my duty to recommend you to assume a proper position, as under the unfortunate circumstances in which we are placed, by the engagement entered into by unjust ministers, our rights and privileges would be handed over to others, this act would be ruinous to us, and it is our duty not only to speak against it, but to resist with all our might the fulfilment of such an engagement. I have great satisfaction in proposing the following Resolution.

Resolved.—That this meeting would respectfully, but firmly urge upon the Imperial Government that the concession contemplated by them would involve a breach of faith towards this Colony and that the consequences would be more ruinous to us in their nature and more calamitous to general interests, than any which it has hitherto suffered.

Mr. John Richards said the Resolution was a most important one, all our interests were involved in this subject, there never was such an encroachment by the Ministers of any Country, as to take from the subjects, property, and privileges of more than 200 years standing, of what service the Country, if the water-side is taken from you? it is there you must seek your living, for there only are the means to be obtained. By Treaty we have inherited the right of fishing, and success has been made from time to time, which have impoverished the Fisheries, and all but ruined the Country, and now by another act of spoliation they would finish what the Treaty of Utrecht began.

Sixty years occupation would bar the claim of the Crown, or any land taken by the subject, and that property that has been held, by you and your Fathers almost from time immemorial is to be wrenched from you, not for the service of the old country, but to be let to French vessels, not only in the Fishery, but in the attempt to raise a Navy; our rights must be thus disposed of, our fisheries must be maintained, and the people will have to seek some other Country, but it is our privilege, and our duty, to take all constitutional means to avert this calamity.

Mr. Henry Moore felt pleasure in having proposed the next resolution, but was sorry that it had been rendered necessary, by the act of the Convention, for thirteen years he had been engaged in the business of the Country, and knew that further concessions to the French would be an act of the greatest injustice to the people of this Country, in fact it would be handing over the Fisheries of Newfoundland to French vessels to take place without further observation being made to the Resolution.

Resolved.—That the first duty of the population is to appeal to the justice and humanity of the Imperial Government by Petitions to Her Majesty, and to both Houses of Parliament, and further to solicit the sympathy and cooperation of the neighbouring Colonies for the purpose of averting consequences so direful as must result from the concessions contemplated.

The Resolution was heartily seconded by Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald an aged and highly respected inhabitant of this place. Mr. Daniel Green said, Gentlemen, the Convention which the Imperial Ministry are making against us, in crests, we may well be surprised that the people of this country should have to receive the message at the hands of the Government, by the neglect of others would only prompt us to resist the measure which we hold to be unconstitutional, and that we would do all in our power to resist the same.

Resolved.—That this Meeting would express its unqualified approval of the dignified course taken by the Legislature of this Colony in the present emergency, and would urgently implore them to resist to the utmost the encroachments of the Imperial Government on our Constitutional rights.

and to adopt such measures by deputations or otherwise, as may seem to them best adapted to subserve the momentous interest involved in the measures in question.

Capt. Geo. Pike—It is my first time of coming before a meeting, but I feel it my duty to endeavour to prevent the infringement on our rights by making over to the French, the great evil of having to do with Frenchmen. They manage not only to secure the best ground for themselves but to encroach on ours and 20 or 30 Cts Fish is all that we would share, when if they were absent good voyages might be made. We have not deserved to be thus injured by the Parent Government we have never been disloyal, and this Country has contributed many millions of Pounds revenue to the Imperial Treasury, our Forefathers assisted to fight the Battles which England had to wage with not only France but the whole world, and our seaboard has furnished material to man the wooden walls of old England, then why should we be injured to serve France, or any other power under Heaven. He trusted that there would be resistance sufficiently strong to prevent such an act of injustice to Newfoundland.

The following Resolution was moved by Mr. Claudius Watts, and seconded by Mr. John Byrne.

Resolved.—That a Committee be appointed to draw up Petitions to the Queen, and both Houses of Parliament, embracing the views of this meeting, and obtain the signatures of the whole population thereto.

We regret that want of space obliges us to defer the publication of Mr. C. Watts's excellent address upon this occasion, it shall appear in our next.

Carbonear March the 2nd. 1857

Sir The universal outburst of indignant surprise consequent upon the discovery of a plot in high places, pregnant with consequences most ruinous to this Colony, while it speaks in thunder to the perpetrators in embryo of that plot, and is a most apposite and timely lesson to them, yet I hope I may be excused if I attempt to represent the whole affair under a different aspect, calculated to sooth our alarm, and to assuage the acerbity, with which we associate the names appended to the 14th January Monster Great Britain is not now to learn, that climate and bodily exposure and exertion have in all ages taken the foremost rank, both in the extension and the annihilation of Empires, and states, nor can they be ignorant that Commerce exalted Tyre, Venice, and the United Provinces; to the rank which once they held, and that a protecting armed fleet sustained each in its pre-eminence only so long as those fleets were supreme.

A sea could not bear two equally potent Empires, neither can neptunes Dominions, although stretched over one third of the Globe, sustain upon its bosom ample tho it is, two national maritime heroes of equal potency. Equally true it is that Britain's glory, shines or becomes dim to total eclipse, as her gallant navy careers to the Breezes, which fan every keel path of our globe, or become ebb'd up within her own ports. That Britain is not alone in the knowledge of this secret is sufficiently evident, nor is it less obvious that the green eyed monster lend his telescope to more than one state when they wish more nearly and feelingly to inspect, and calculate upon this admitted superiority. That the United States have within their extensive dominions all the material for a powerful navy, must be admitted, nor can it be denied that naval tactics and architecture rapidly advance; while seamen from every nation under heaven, are momentarily becoming naturalized under the auspices of the European stripes, and what they have the means of producing, their exposed far extended coasts imperatively demand. France has no forgotten Trafalgar, nor is she ignorant that those who are employed in the cultivation of the orange, the olive, and the vine, are not the men to defy the battle and the breeze. Experience has taught them, that a dozen from the banks of Newfoundland, are worth a hundred, vine dressers. Hence France in all her treaties, with Great Britain the last two centuries has pertinaciously clung to the Fishery privilege, Cape Breton, the Canadas, once were French Colonies, conquest made them ours, Peace comes, articles are submitted, and take Cape Breton and the Canadas into the bargain only give us the right of fishery, become the echo the life, the soul, of French diplomacy—and this has even been the first, and most prominent—and most strenuously pressed, and insisted upon preliminary, in all our political conventions, not only with England but every man in a country, whose waters employ themselves in catching, and dressing, and marketing even now an alliance between the tricolour and the stripes would not be the bagatelle which is arrayed against British supremacy 80 years since.

The vexed questions of disputed rights and ambiguously expressed treaties, which have so long agitated the surface of the intercourse between France and England, have been rapidly drawing to a crisis. England gave us Responsible Government, and thereby invested us with all the privileges and authorities of which it would be high Treason for any power beneath the Crown

to despoil us—good—now those things being well understood the British Ministry assisted by a certain Jew-Crow Vicar of Bray &c, sign a convention by which the very existence of the Colony interested herein becomes erased from the long catalogue of Britains foreign possessions, does not the ministry every man of them know this, are not our beloved Queen and her royal hawk-eyed-keen scented Consort fully aware that this is so, and moreover that with Newfoundland, or is trampled in the dust the British Standard in the Provinces and the Canadas. Now put these together! Newfoundland has a bear habitation and a name, the convention give to a stranger all that the most deadly foe could plunder from us, pray does not all England know, eye, and all Scotland, and all Ireland, indeed all the world know that if a Governor were to whisper a word of advice in that direction, or were the Peoples House or the Council Chamber to be contaminated with a breath rendered audible by an expression even in palliation of such a measure, that their residences would be worth no more than were those of Brutus and his friends a few hours after Cæsar's murder, and among the whole who would bewail the calamity not one would more bitterly regret our apathy, our suicidal folly, if we were to follow the soft insinuating advice, than our own rightful Sovereign; you may as well just recite the Convention, embody it in an ACT and pass it into a law.

By our unanimous declaration of never countenancing the proposed legalised encroachments, we have furnished the home Government with a plea which France must admit and therefore as a matter of course until other terms in words whose meaning and application admit of no coach and six Chas. are presented to us offering us not what is already our own, but some substantive equivalent as for instance, a few hundred miles of coasts from Spain, towards Sardinia, and the little inconsiderable Peninsula, westward from Cape L Hogue to in fee simple, with all rights and appurtenances from henceforth for ever. Perhaps upon these terms our neighbours might be avowed with a few tubs of Caplin or herring, and the sweep of a siene half a mile long and forty fathoms deep, along the bottom of our invaluable fishing grounds, nothing more and assuredly nothing less would by us be esteemed a fair transfer. The French ministry will have eight months to consider our terms and hence they need not be taken by surprise as we have been, and let all whom it may concern know assuredly that in a national sense, such a cession on the part of France would bear a trifling proportion to the contemplated Conventional cession of Newfoundland interests.

B. J. P.

To The Hon P. F. Lejeune

Sir—Self defence is my apology for intruding upon your attention at this time. In your place in the assembly you thought proper to make use of my name, in connection with certain circumstances of a disreputable character, and within the compass of six or seven lines, you managed to express or imply no less than four distinct falsehoods.—you spoke thus—“It would be remembered that there was a Mr. Webber in the box last year, who had been bold to submit the speeches of the respective members who spoke them. He had submitted me to the hon. the Speaker, who committed me to the flames, and which might therefore justly be called by the hon. member for Burgeo and La Poile, a burning speech. Mr. Webber reported no other speech. The hon. and learned member for Fortune Bay was in error when he said the charge was brought against the ministry. The expression used was “certain members.” The whole matter arose in the way he had explained.”

Now Sir with respect to your positive assertion, that I had been told to submit the speeches of the respective members who spoke them, I emphatically declare that such is not the fact. Mr. Morris did on one occasion, advise me to submit any doubtful report to the member; but as a general rule, to the best of my knowledge no such instructions were given.

To this qualified direction there were two exceptions. Mr Hogsett on application to Mr. Morris was referred to me for my report of his first speech the session (that upon mines and minerals) upon reading which Mr. Hogsett expressed himself satisfied; however on the last day of the session when that disgraceful scene occurred about the palty amount of my pitance that Hon. Gent. thought proper to characterize that same report as a “jumble of nonsense, composed of some eight or ten lines,” now this speech as submitted by me, may still be read on the printed reports of the day, and is perhaps as fair a specimen of Mr. Hogsett's elocution as any since reported. \$5 mine party Government and senatorial honour.

Exception no 2 was of a more complicated and insidious character, and was, I have ground to believe, a matter of arrangement between the Hon. the Speaker and Mr. Morris; the latter Gentleman suddenly left the Box when the Speaker rose to deliver one of those rambling and disconnected speeches in which he sometimes indulges; the report was handed to Mr. Morris, who in my presence sent it from the Reporters Box to the Speaker, by whom it was returned

with a note containing Morris at my request which with many of I may deem proud flourish about a many others by smoke.

Again, you assure was the only one not have been explained to me then pleased to term guests and Mr. Carr ed by me, and wh in both cases, from gative. Mr. Ho at his office door of his previous to saying, we must speech was published. Ellis, was pleased with his speech in Bennets case, Mr report of his speech Mr. March, reported for them which I filled up, only which were yet you delicate other speech—“O us like a summer.

It would appear better satisfied of reporting, and their just ground to Mr. Talbot's arrival at the conclusion, with five, I simply phatic and solemn whole course of ten words with Mr was not sufficient familiarly, he was once I remember him in the clerk but no refer to Mr. Talbot's statement, I believe Pollicium, and he for Candour to ter,

Under such a quest that you wish which you should as a result attraction, and should have expected sufficient about the Assembly to marry evidence, injustice complained

Harbour Grace

We have not Conception Bay and shall feel Mr. Caruone's friend information to the next issue.

A Poor man assisting to repair Mr. Munn's Well in the water, by several minutes of Medical aid, poor man lived over and left three

It is appoi

On the 2 inst he has left a wife and friends, to ja

On Saturday ness, Mr. Jan leaving an affliction to deplore his rel

On Monday 5 Bagin, the ver years Parish Pr

MARCH 6.—Expr

March, 7.—Eliza

Robtsey

March, 12.—Ha