

absolutely necessary to check the Encroachments of the French, His Majesty, on the 4th of the said Month, upon the Report of the Lords of the Council for Foreign Plantations, rejected the said Proposal, and thereby removed the Fears and Jealousies that the Adventurers had entertained, to the great Discouragement of the Fishing Trade.

Nevertheless the Fishery was so severely affected by the aforesaid Disorders and Disputes, that the Merchants, Owners, and Masters of Ships, and Inhabitants of the Western Parts of this Kingdom adventuring to Newfoundland were obliged, in December 1670, to petition His Majesty, that the said Fishery might be maintained by Fishing Ships according to its ancient Custom, that Encroachments thereupon might be removed, and that the Majors mentioned in their Patent might be empowered to authorize and depute, from Time to Time, Persons to execute the Laws and Constitutions for the Fishery according to the Intent of the same; and on the 11th of February following, after the Petitioners, and those that opposed them, had been fully heard by His Majesty in Council, the whole Matter was referred to His Majesty's Council of Plantations; and it was ordered that their Lordships should consider of the best Ways and Means whereby the Fishing Trade in Newfoundland might be regulated and advanced; and also protected and secured from Foreigners, and how the said Trade might be managed for the Increase of Seamen, and the Advantage of His Majesty and His Subjects, as likewise to take into their Consideration His Majesty's Charter, and the additional Powers desired by the Western Traders, and to report their Opinion upon the Whole to His Majesty.

Accordingly their Lordships, on the 2d of March following, made their Report, and offered it as their Opinion and humble Advice to His Majesty, that the several new Regulations contained in the said Report be added to the Charter; and on the 10th of the same Month, after the said new Regulations had been seriously considered by His Majesty in Council, those that related to the Adventurers were all approved, except One, whereby it was proposed, that Encouragement might be given to the Inhabitants to transport themselves and their Families to Jamaica, St. Christopher's, or some others of His Majesty's Plantations; and it was ordered that the said Rules should be added to and inserted in the Charter.

But when the Adventurers found that the Removal of the Inhabitants from Newfoundland could not be obtained, they seemed to be very indifferent about renewing of the Charter, so the Trade was left to take its Course; and in 1671, Captain Davies, the Commander of the Convoy, affirmed, " That the said Trade was not then by Two Third Parts so good " as he remembered it, when 200 Sail of Ships and 10,000 Men were " Yearly employed, and at length trained up to the Sea," with which Account the Memorials of the Adventurers also agree.

In 1674 the Solicitations for a Governor were again renewed, and on the 12th of February it was ordered by His Majesty in Council, That the Lords of the Committee should re-consider this Affair; who reported on the 15th April 1675, that it had been clearly made out to them,

That the French had considerably advanced their Fishery at Newfoundland.

That