

he handed the resolutions in at the Clerk's table, where they were read, as follows :—

“ *Resolved*,—That this Committee having had under consideration the report of the joint Committee of the Legislative Council and this House, adopted by both branches in the Session of 1867, on the subject of French right of fishery on the coast of this Island, together with the despatch of the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to his Excellency the Governor, bearing date the 6th August, 1873, are of opinion that with the view of terminating the long-pending contentions that have arisen respecting the rights of both nations under the Treaties, it is expedient that negotiations should be resumed for that purpose on the basis of the said report, as suggested in the said despatch, which report, with some amendments, is as follows :—

“ 1st. Your Committee submit that no question can arise, under the Treaties, as to the dominion of the soil on the so-called French shore, in common with the whole Island of Newfoundland, belonging to the Crown of Great Britain ; and such right in all negotiations between the two nations on the subject of the Treaties has never been impeached ; but certain privileges are claimed by the French under these Treaties and accompanying Declarations, in making erections and otherwise on the coast for fishing purposes ; and it is contended that British subjects are prohibited from having fixed settlements there.

“ 2nd. Your Committee further submit that, without French permission, it is lawful for British subjects to construct buildings and reside therein for purposes apart from those of fishery, and to make use of the strand for all purposes essential to the exercise of the territorial dominion of the interior land, and that the term ‘fixed settlements,’ referred to in His Britannic Majesty's Declaration, applies only to such as are in connection with the fisheries. On the coast are French establishments of a substantial character, unauthorised by the Treaties.

“ 3rd. It would appear to your Committee that the objection to issuing grants and licenses has arisen from the construction given by the French to their Treaty rights to the use of the shore in connection with the fishery : and whilst it is advisable that any uncertainty on this point should be removed by amicable arrangement, yet your Committee submit that the territory being unquestionably in Great Britain, the local executive is authorised to issue grants and licenses for agricultural, mining, and other purposes, which have not for their object the interruption of the French by competition in the fishery. Your Committee are, however, aware that in the construction of the Treaties as regards the respective rights and privileges of the subjects of both