

No. 62.

SIR TERENCE O'BRIEN to LORD KNUTSFORD.
(Received March 7, 1891.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

FOLLOWING is text of last night's Resolution passed by House of Assembly in answer to your telegram of 11th February and your Despatch of 12th February :—*

"Whereas Governor stated in reply to Address on the 23rd February: 'While I thank you for your Address, I regret that I must at the same time take exception to that portion of it which relates to the proposed convention with the United States of America, for I am led to believe, from a telegraphic communication received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that when, on the arrival of the mail, this telegram and his Lordship's Despatch on the subject are laid before you and all the circumstances become known, you will find that your conclusions and deductions have been erroneous ;'

"And whereas, by his Excellency's command, this House has been placed in possession of the Despatches referred to, and has most carefully considered the same; and whereas in the said Despatches the Secretary of State has not only confirmed everything that this House alleged in the Resolutions that were unanimously adopted by it on the 13th February, and which was set forth in its Address in reply to Governor's Speech :—

"1. That the matter of reciprocity between Newfoundland and the United States was formally brought under the notice of the Imperial Government by the Newfoundland delegates ;

"2. That after lengthy consideration of the proposals made by the said delegates, Her Majesty's Government assented to the Colonial Secretary of this island proceeding to Washington to lay before Her Majesty's Minister the views of the Newfoundland Government relative thereto ;

"3. That after the return of the Colonial Secretary of Newfoundland in November a telegraphic despatch was received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, advising his immediate return to Washington ; and

"4. That a convention satisfactory to the Government of this Colony was agreed upon which has not been ratified by Her Majesty's Government, but further states that the draft convention which was submitted to the American Minister on the 18th October was laid by Her Majesty's Ministers before the Government of Canada, and Her Majesty's Ministers decided that the convention must remain in abeyance because the Government of Canada had pointed out that Canada had on previous occasions obtained material concessions from the United States for privileges which this Colony now offers the United States in her own interest alone ;

"And whereas, after acquiescing in the interference of the Government of Canada in relation to this matter, and accepting her protest against the convention, Her Majesty's Government did transmit a Despatch to the Governor, under date of 18th November, advising the immediate return of the Colonial Secretary of this Colony to Washington in these words: 'Blaine urges that Colonial Secretary should return at once to Washington to furnish report on statistics and certain explanations which are necessary in connection with proposed reciprocity treaty. He considers that it would be advantageous for him to go immediately' :

"Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this House that not only has the position which it took up and set forth in the Resolutions transmitted to Her Majesty's Government, and in the Address and reply to his Excellency's Speech, been amply substantiated and justified, but that the grievance of the Colony is intensified by the fact that after Her Majesty's Government had favourably received the objections of Canada, as set forth in the Despatch of the Secretary of State of 12th February, the Colonial Secretary was directed to proceed again to Washington as if for the purpose of concluding the convention against which Her Majesty's Government had already accepted the protest of Canada.

"Resolved,—That in the opinion of this House the time for considering how far that convention might affect other interests than those of Newfoundland had arrived when in July 1890 a full text of the draft convention was submitted to Her Majesty's