

policy than to the best interests of the people of the colony. The late convention, which has resulted in the *Modus Vivendi* now under discussion, is the ninth which has been held during a period of less than fifty years, and in every instance the arrangement suggested has been to the detriment of the people of Newfoundland, and has been promptly and emphatically disclaimed by them. All conventions prior to the one whose labors are now under discussion, related generally to the Cod-fishery, but the present arrangement includes an entirely new and startling claim, namely, of a right on the part of the French to take and preserve Lobsters on that part of the coast of Newfoundland on which they have fishery rights.

Before entering into a discussion of this claim it will be necessary, in order to obtain a clear idea of the fishery rights of the French, to give some extracts from the text of the Treaties upon which they base their claims, with such other information as will tend towards the elucidation of the points in dispute.

The provisions of the Treaties are as follows:—

TREATY OF UTRECHT—1713.

By Article XIII. of the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713, it was agreed that "The Island called Newfoundland, with the adjacent islands, shall from this time forward belong of right wholly to Great Britain; and to that end the town and fortress of Placentia, and whatever other places in the said island are in the possession of the French, shall be yielded and given up within seven months from the exchange of the ratification of this treaty, or sooner if possible, by the most Christian King, to those who have a Commission from the Queen of Great Britain for that purpose. Nor shall the most Christian King, his heirs and successors, or any of their subjects, at any time hereafter lay claim to any right to the said island and islands, or to any part of it or them. Moreover, it shall not be lawful for the subjects of France to fortify any place in the said island of Newfoundland, or to erect any buildings there, besides stages made of boards, and huts necessary and usual for drying of fish, or to resort to the said island beyond the time necessary for fishing and drying of fish. But it shall be allowed to the subjects of France to catch fish, and to dry them on land, in that part only, and in no other besides that, of the said island of Newfoundland, which stretches from the place called Cape Bonavista to the northern point of the said island, and from thence, running down by the western side, reaches as far as the place called Point Riche. But the island called Cape Breton, as also all others, both in the mouth of the river St. Lawrence and in the gulph of the same name shall hereafter belong of right to the French; and the most Christian King shall have all manner of liberty to fortify any place or places there."