

parts of the province to assist him in redressing the grievances under which our fishermen labored. He thought that they had great right to complain, and although he did not wish at that time to enter into a discussion of the Reciprocity treaty, which no doubt conferred some advantages upon us, yet he could not help saying that he had always entertained a strong opinion as to the way in which our fisheries had been summarily bartered away by the British Minister at Washington, without our being consulted in the matter. It may have served the ends of Foreign Diplomacy, but it was not the way to treat the rights we held so dear. It could not (as he had said) be denied that some advantages of trade had been derived from that treaty, but the immediate consequence had been that while mackerel commanded \$20 per barrel in former times, they now only brought \$10. And they had only to look at the prosperity in the state of Maine, and other states where large bounties were given, to see the benefits the United States had reaped from that treaty. He did not generally approve of the bounty system, but he would suggest to the fishery committee the propriety of granting some aid to the bank fisheries.

Mr. JOST said that this was a matter of great importance, and well worthy the serious consideration of the house. The fishermen did not complain of being taxed upon goods landed in Newfoundland, but upon their outfits which are never landed, and in many cases a large portion is brought back to this province.

Mr. LOCKE said that the reason given by the Newfoundland authorities for exacting the duty upon salt, was because their fishermen had to pay it. He was not so sure whether this was the case or not.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. read a letter from the Custom House officer at St. John, stating that salt was the only article the tax was levied upon.

Mr. LOCKE said that the despatch referred to salt for consumption on the Labrador coast and could not be applicable to salt used in curing fish to bring back to Nova Scotia. He entirely concurred with the member for Lunenburg that this tax was unjust, and he hoped that measures would be taken to remedy the grievance.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. said that the Newfoundland authorities had referred to the confirmation of the Imperial authorities as to the course they had pursued, but it was evident that they only referred to the abstract right of the Newfoundland Government to levy a tax upon goods landed on the Labrador coast. He considered that they had no right to tax the salt used by our fishermen.

Mr. LOCKE said that the Newfoundland authorities did not dare to tax salt used by the American fisherman, and he did not think they should be allowed to extort it from ours.

The report of Mr. Winters, Custom House officers of St. Johns, was read by the Clerk.

Mr. LEVESCONTE said that there was no doubt that our fishermen were treated with great injustice, and he could not see the shadow of an excuse for the course pursued by the Newfoundland Government. These goods which were taxed, were not landed on the coast at all, and were not, therefore, liable to duty. They did not tax Americans at all, though they had just as much to levy duties

from them as from our fishermen. The people of Newfoundland paid the duty on their goods at St. Johns, and were not called upon to pay twice over. He believed that the opinion of the Crown Officers of England had never been called to the true nature of this case—they had been only asked whether the Government had a right to collect from persons trading and doing business in Labrador upon what goods they might land. He considered the answer of the Newfoundland authorities as a mere evasion of the question, and expressed a hope that the subject would be brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. ARCHIBALD, (who was hardly heard,) pointed out the injustice of the tax, and said that we would have just as much right to go on board any American fishermen or any vessel in fact that might be within our borders, and exact a duty on everything that was chargeable. The whole question, as he understood it, arose from the meaning of "importations." The construction given to this word by the Newfoundland government was most extraordinary.

Mr. LOCKE again showed the injustice of the tax, and said that there was no sense in the excuse of Mr. Winters that these duties were exacted from our fishermen because the people of Newfoundland are subject to the same tax. The fact was these goods belonging to our fishermen, on which duties were levied do not enter into the consumption of Newfoundland at all. Our people paid duty on these here, and it was unfair to have them taxed twice.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that the whole difficulty would cease as soon as confederation was a fixed fact.

Mr. KAULBACK trusted the House would not wait until confederation took place, and expressed his hope that when the matter had been again explained to the Newfoundland government they would recognise the injustice of the exaction.

The papers were referred to the committee on the fisheries.

MILITIA PETITION.

Hon. FIN. SEC. laid on the table the petition of Mr. M. Kavanagh, with the report of the Adjutant-General thereon. From this report it appears that the department could not, without a violation of its regulations, pay the services rendered by Capt. Kavanagh in reorganizing the militia in the county of Richmond. At the same time, however, his services are recognized as very efficient, and the report considers he is entitled to some remuneration for the labor which he has performed. Mr. McDonald then moved that the petition be referred to the militia committee, and said that the government would be quite ready to adopt the report of that committee as to the remuneration he should receive.

PETITIONS.

Mr. S. McDONNELL presented a petition from Inverness, for aid in opening up Big Pond, Cheticamp, for a shelter for fishermen's boats, and another from the inhabitants of River Denis, asking for a way office.

LUNATIC ASYLUM REPORT, ETC.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table the annual report of the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane.

The report states that, on the first of January, 1864, there were on the record one hundred and forty-two patients—seventy-five males