

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Despatches from the Governor.

No. 1.

Lieutenant-Governor Robinson to the Earl of Kimberley.

(No. 15.)

Government House, 23rd November, 1870.

(Received 14th December, 1870.)

MY LORD,

(Answered (No. 39), 17th December, 1870, page 57.)

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch No. 32* of the 20th ultimo, informing me that the transshipment of fish and obtaining supplies by the United States fishing vessels in the ports of this Colony cannot be regarded as a substantial invasion of British rights; and I beg to report that the Custom House authorities have been instructed that they are not, until further orders, to prevent United States fishermen from entering the bays of Prince Edward Island for such purposes.

* Vide Previous Paper, dated January 1871, page 230.

2. I have caused the United States Consul at this port to be informed of the footing on which this question now stands, though the suspension of the prohibition is of no immediate practical importance, the fishing for this season being at an end.

3. A copy of the notice, which was published in the Government "Gazette" on receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, is herewith enclosed.

4. The Colonists are not a little gratified at the result of the appeal made by the late Government to the Secretary of State. Trade suffered severely in consequence of the action which Government felt called upon to take in August last, and the people look forward with satisfaction to re-opening their ports next summer to their remunerative and welcome visitors.

5. I wish to add, however, with reference to the last paragraph of your Lordship's Despatch, that my Government will not be found disposed to act otherwise than in unison with Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the Dominion in any steps which it may be necessary to take hereafter "for the more effectual prevention of encroachment on the Colonial Fisheries by foreign vessels."

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

WILLIAM ROBINSON,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Enclosure in No. 1.

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NOTICE.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in Council has been pleased to cancel the Instructions issued to Custom House officers, on the 23rd of August, 1870, respecting the practice of admitting United States fishing vessels to entry in the ports of Prince Edward Island; and to direct that such vessels shall be permitted to enter, transship their cargoes of fish, and obtain supplies in the ports of this Colony as aforesaid, from this date, and until further orders.

Executive Council Chamber,
November 17th, 1870.

CHARLES DESBRISAY, C.E.C.