

Mr. BEMISTER presented Petitions from Thomas Hutchings and others, of Bay de Verds; James Tobin and others, of Sparable Cove; and Patrick Colford, of Redlands, North Shore, Conception Bay, which were severally received and read,—Praying for grants to open and repair roads in those settlements.

Road Petitions from North Shore, Conception Bay.

*Ordered*,—That the said Petitions do lie upon the table.

On Table.

*A Message from His Excellency the Governor.*

The hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency, presented to the House a Message from the Governor, signed by His Excellency.

Message from His Excellency the Governor.

The said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, all the members being uncovered, and is as follows :—

CHARLES HENRY DARLING.

The Governor transmits to the hon. the House of Assembly the copy of a Despatch from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, enclosing the copy of a “Convention between Her Majesty and the Emperor of the French, relative to Rights of Fishery on the Coast of Newfoundland, and the neighbouring Coasts,” signed at London, on the 14th January last, together with a copy of the correspondence referred to in that Despatch.

The Assembly will perceive that by the 20th Article of the Convention it is provided, that that Instrument shall come into operation as soon as the Laws required to carry it into effect shall have been passed by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, and by the Legislature of Newfoundland, and that Her Majesty has engaged to use Her best endeavors to procure the passing of such Laws in sufficient time to enable Her to bring the Convention into operation on or before the 1st January, 1858.

The Assembly will learn from the Secretary of State's Despatch, that in making this engagement, Her Majesty's Government desire to express their strong anxiety to effect the arrangement for which the Convention provides, and their conviction that to miss the present opportunity of bringing to a settlement the long agitated questions to which it relates, will be to cause great inconvenience, and probable future loss to Newfoundland.