

No such inconvenience can result under the very satisfactory provision of the present arrangement dealing with this branch of the subject.

In return for the advantages to the colony above enumerated, Her Majesty's Government would, under the present Arrangement, recognize little more than the *de facto* state of things existing as regards the acts of authority exercised every fishing season by the French cruizers in the waters over which the French Treaty rights extend, and the exercise of these acts on the part of French cruizers would only take place in cases of infraction of the very reasonable provisions of this Arrangement, and then only in the absence of any of Her Majesty's cruizers.

I may here observe that a Convention, a copy of which is enclosed, was signed in 1881 at the Hague by the Representatives of certain Maritime Powers for the regulation of the fisheries in the North Sea. This Convention contains very useful provisions for the orderly prosecution of the fisheries in common by fishermen of different nationalities, and some of its provisions have been considered applicable to the case of the Newfoundland fisheries.

The stipulations of the North Sea Convention no doubt apply to waters which are not territorial, still the peculiar fisheries rights granted by Treaties to the French in Newfoundland invest those waters during the months of the year when fishing is carried on in them both by English and French fishermen with a character somewhat analogous to that of a common sea for the purposes of fishery. It could not be expected that the French would give up in favour of the development of the colony the interpretation they place on the Treaties, without obtaining in return some equivalent by which they will in the future be better able to secure for their fishermen the full enjoyment of their fishing industry, and it appears to Her Majesty's Government that little inconvenience is likely to result from the exercise of the limited right accorded to French cruizers by the present Arrangement.

The French Government have invariably maintained that the establishment of a fixed population on any portions of the coast on which they enjoy Treaty rights must result in their ultimate exclusion from those spots, through French fishermen being virtually debarred from enjoying the free and uninterrupted exercise of the fishery rights accorded to them; and they instance the cases of the Bay of St. George on the west coast and of Conche on the east coast, where such a condition of affairs has arisen. —

In agreeing, therefore, to the opening of all those extensive portions of the coast tinted red on the Map to a fixed population, the French Government naturally, and, in the opinion of Her Majesty's

*a mere subterfuge
not they claim to do
or they are not
element of English*