

## DEEP SEA FISHERIES.

The Committee appointed to consider the various documents on the subject of the Fisheries referred to them, after mature consideration, have agreed to report as follows:—

The Committee observe with pleasure that considerable improvement has taken place in the Provincial Fishery during the last year, and that, if effectual protection be continued, this important branch of industry will, ere long, furnish a very valuable export; and while the Fisheries are annually improving as a nursery for British Seamen, they will, at the same time, constitute an improving source of wealth to the Province. The Committee earnestly recommend that the rights of the Province, in reference to the Fisheries, should be strictly and rigidly enforced, and that no participation in them should be conceded to any foreign power, but that the Colonial Fishermen should be invested with the exclusive rights to fish in the waters adjacent and belonging to the Province; and they recommend that such steps should be taken to impose a tax on foreign fishing vessels passing through the Strait of Canso to and from the fishing grounds, as will counter-balance, in some degree, the bounties and protection by which the Fisheries of foreign nations are fostered and encouraged. The Committee observe that the legal right of the Provincial Legislature to enact laws for the protection and regulation of the Fisheries has been fully recognized by the Crown Officers of England in a case recently submitted to them, to which they beg to refer, and from which they make the following extract:—

“ Even if the Imperial Act 59, Geo. III, Chapter 38, should be insufficient to give Her Majesty power to impose all or any of the rules and regulations in question, (a question which we need not now consider,) the authority of the Local Legislature appears to us to be sufficient to make them valid in effect by its express Legislative Enactment of them. The authority of the Local Legislature extends, like that of the Imperial Parliament, over the space of three miles of the high seas next to the coast which is, by the comity of nations, part of the Country to which it is adjacent; and we are of opinion, that upon this general principle, and irrespective of the Convention, the Imperial Statute or the regulations of the Sovereign in Council, the Colonial Legislature was legally entitled to legislate as it has done, relative to the Fisheries, and its enactments are valid and binding. We are of opinion that such a vessel