

5. If, then, she can be included in any general measure, which goes no further, her Legislature and her people would be content.

6. In the discussions between the delegates who met here in September, and in the subsequent debates in the Legislature, the possibility of the Americans demanding the surrender of our exclusive rights of fishery was contemplated, and the advantages and disadvantages of such a sacrifice freely discussed.

7. The fishery of Nova Scotia is to her people an unfailing and valuable resource.

From the insular formation of this province, and the endless indentations of the sea coast, her people become fishermen and navigators almost instinctively.

In the fishery a large amount of capital is invested.

It yields an annual export of 403,045*l.* sterling, exclusive of the quantity consumed within the province.

It employs a large amount of population, and is at once a firm basis of commercial operations, and a noble nursery for seamen.

Even in the face of the high duties and high bounties of the United States, this valuable branch of industry is steadily progressive, and appears capable of indefinite extension.

8. Your Lordship will at once perceive that no Government should lightly disturb a branch of industry which is so advantageous, and that if foreigners are to be admitted to free participation with our own, the privilege should be purchased by corresponding concessions and equivalents.

The repeal of their bounties, and the free admission of our fish by the Americans, might, and probably would be regarded as placing the fishing-trade on a legitimate footing; and if disposed to so shape their legislation, there would, I apprehend, be no objection to meet them on fair terms.

If, however, the duty on fish only is withdrawn, and our catch can but enter the American markets in competition with their own, protected by high bounties, then it becomes my duty to state that the close fishery ought not to be yielded, at all events not until there is an opportunity of consulting the Legislature of Nova Scotia again.

9. I am more particular and explicit upon this point, because I have reason to apprehend that, upon some others, to which the Legislature of Nova Scotia attach considerable importance, difficulties may be raised by the Government of the United States.

10. The right to register vessels built on any part of the extensive sea-coast of the Republic in the British Provinces, has been conferred by the Act 12 & 13 Vic., cap. 29.

11. That colonial-built vessels should be entitled to the corresponding privilege, would appear to be the natural result of British legislation.

If, upon this point, the American Government adhere to their restrictive policy, the fact will be significant, and ought to inspire great caution in making further concessions, unless in return for well-defined and substantial equivalents.

12. By address to the Sovereign, the people of this province are about to throw open their coasting-trade to American bottoms. Will the reciprocal privilege be conceded?

If it is, other points may be more easily adjusted.

If it is not, adherence to this monopoly must inspire caution in dealing with other interests.

13. The coal trade of Nova Scotia, next to its fishery, furnishes its most bulky and valuable export.

The mines being inexhaustible, and easily approached by sea-going vessels, would, were the protective duties removed, supply to the United States ten times the quantity now exported.

It is feared that the Congressional strength of Pennsylvania, and other coal-producing States, may exclude coal from the list of articles to be mutually exchanged, with a view to avert the consequences of free competition.

Should this interest be successful, and one of our valuable staples be still burdened with protective duties, your Excellency will perceive that the numerous class whose capital and labour are embarked in the fishery and coal-trade, would view, with distrust, the surrender of a protective policy which guards the one, while no equivalent relaxation opened a prospect for the extension of the other.

14. Iron is not yet made in any quantity in Nova Scotia. Ores of the richest kinds are, nevertheless, abundant, and establishments are forming to work them. Although, in the present unproductive state of this great natural resource, it would not be wise to embarrass or retard a general measure that might largely develop others already further advanced, still the free admission of iron ores, and other pigs and blooms, was contemplated by the Legislature, and ought to be yielded, if Nova Scotia is to abandon her close fishery, which, in proportion to her population, affects the prejudices and interests of a much larger class, than cling to the protection of the peculiar branches of industry in the United States, which are likely to be affected by this negotiation.

15. From what has been stated, your Lordship will readily comprehend the policy to which this Government, after mature reflection, is disposed to adhere.

If the United States exclude the coal and iron of Nova Scotia, and will neither remove their bounties, nor admit her vessels to registry, or to participation in the coasting-trade, then she will not (at least not willingly) abandon her rights of fishery.

16. If, without reference to any of these questions, reciprocity in the productions of the forests and the soil can be arranged on fair and honourable terms, Nova Scotia is content to participate.