

in the British dominions. American steamers thus conveyed are now plying on the River Saint John with British registers.

"What our people want are equal rights and commercial freedom, and they would *then* not fear competition."

Copy—No. 28.

Saint John, 10th September, 1852.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose a copy of a Minute of Council, approved by me in Council this day, on the subject of the Fisheries.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDMUND HEAD.

The Right Hon. Sir John S. Pakington, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

FISHERIES AND BOUNTIES.

Copy—No. 8.

Downing Street, 26th May, 1852.

SIR,—Among the many pressing subjects which have engaged the attention of Her Majesty's Ministers since their assumption of office, few have been more important in their estimation than the question relating to the protection solicited for the Fisheries on the Coasts of British North America.

Her Majesty's Government have taken into their serious consideration, the representations upon this subject contained in your Despatches noted in the margin, and have not failed to observe, that whilst active measures have been taken by certain Colonies for the purpose of encouraging their Fisheries, and of repelling the intrusion of Foreign Vessels, it has been a subject of complaint in New Brunswick that impediments should have been offered by the policy of the Imperial Government to the enactment of bounties, considered by the local Legislature essential for the protection of its trade. Her Majesty's Ministers are desirous to remove all ground of complaint on the part of the Colonies, in consequence of the encroachment of the Fishing Vessels of the United States upon those waters from which they are excluded by the terms of the Convention of 1818, and they therefore intend to dispatch, as soon as possible, a small Naval Force of Steamers or other small Vessels to enforce the observance of that Convention.

These Vessels will of course be confined to the performance of the duties with which they are specially charged, and the Commanders will be enjoined to exercise a careful discretion in the very delicate office of interfering with Vessels belonging to Foreign and Friendly Powers.

With regard to the question of promoting the Fisheries of the British Colonies by the means of bounties, Her Majesty's Government, although desirous not to sanction any unnecessary deviation from that policy which regulates the Commerce of this Country, are still disinclined to prevent those Colonies, by the interposition of Imperial authority, and especially pending the negotiations with the United States of America for the settlement of the principles on which the Commerce with the British North American Colonies is hereafter to be carried on, from adopting the policy which they may deem most conducive to their own welfare and prosperity. Entertaining these views, it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to advise the Queen to give Her assent to an Act passed by the Legislature of Prince Edward Island in the Session of 1851, for the promotion of its deep sea Fisheries, and they will be prepared to give favourable consideration to any Acts for a similar purpose which may be passed by the Legislatures of the other North American Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN S. PAKINGTON.

The Officer Administering the Government of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

The Honorable Mr. Solicitor General, by leave, presented the following Petitions:—

From Henry Garbutt, for aid to make a Draw in the Musquash Bridge:

From James F. Goldrup, in aid of a School:

From John Grimmer and others, for aid to a Road:

From