

Congress of Vienna of the Ninth of June, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifteen, are confirmed and shall be maintained in all such of their enactments which shall not have been modified by the Articles of the present Treaty."

A consideration of such evidence as is attainable convinces us that at the period of making the Treaties our statesmen were adverse to the coming of permanent settlers to Newfoundland, and that this attitude was induced by the Court influence of those Devonshire merchants who were interested in the fishery. The text of the Treaties shews how easily the Home Government permitted the use of an extensive and valuable coast line to be acquired by another nation; very probably because it was supposed the country would never develop beyond the status of a temporary fishing station, and that therefore the rights and desires of its *possible* inhabitants needed little or no consideration.

Had it been otherwise can we think that even corrupt statesmen would have ventured to permit the signing of a treaty which gave 'liberty' to foreign competitors to profit by the colony's chief resource?

Still less would they have been bold enough to add, even by means of a scarcely official Declaration, the obligation that British subjects might not compete on the coast of their own Island with transitory visitors from another and distant country.