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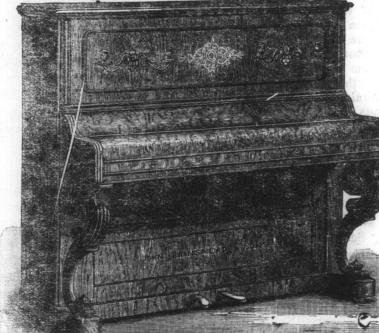
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FOR SALE JOHN S. SIMMS.

[CONTINUED.] FRIDAY, February 24th. Hon. Colonial Secretary—The section before the chair embraces matter of most important consideration for us as legislators, and may be regarded, in relation to the interests of the country, as the principal subject in the whole address. He thought the discussion that has taken place here this evening will be productive of good by drawing the attention of the people to the remarks and opinions of gentlemen so deeply interested in, and so well qualified to express them upon, the staple resources of the colony. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Monroe), in referring to the Chamber of Commerce, used criticism which he (C. S.) thought was perhaps a little too severe, if construed literally, though, as he understood the hon. gentleman, his expressions were meant rather as a gentle rebuke than an earnest reprimand. That hon, gentleman has brought under our notice practices connected with the trade, and advanced suggestions well worthy of the consideration of the Legislature and of the country. Of course it will be conceded that, with the individual action of members of the community in the pursuit of their legitimate business and the management of their private affairs, the Legislature has no right to interfere. The province of legislation does not extend, nor has it a right to meddle in such case, so long as individual action is not harmful to the public good or to the rights of a neighbor. We should, he thought, from our experience of them, feel satisfied that the gentlemen who carry on the trade of this country are as anxious to advance their own interests, in a legitimate way, as are commercial gentlemen in any other part of the world. The integrity and high standing of Newfoundland merchants have been recognized throughout the British empire and become synonymous with produce, industry, and those other qualities which secure success in mercantile life. We have no reason to sup- he expressed the great satisfaction they must pose that this high reputation earned by their all feel upon the prospect of the early estabpredecessors is not equally merited by the gen- lishment of a bureau of fisheries which will tlemen now carrying on the trade of the country. But in considering this matter we, as legislators, are justified in taking into account the effect of the action of any body or association in controlling a business of material importance to the general population, such as the carrying on of the fisheries, and the exportation of the produce of the country. Such matters affect the country, generally, nearly as much as they directly affect the individual gentlemen directing commercial transactions. If these principles be admitted and we take into consideration the allegations made here this evening that a law of the colony's Legislature, passed with the desire to promote the general good by securing a higher standard of character for our codfish through the instrumentality of certificated cullers, has been rendered nugatory by the practice of purchasing fish talqual, it becomes the duty of the Legislature to express its opinion upon the matter. If then the discussion now evoked will have the effect in any degree of inducing the Chamber of Commerce, and the trade generally, to pursue a different course, and act in harmony with the spirit and intention of the Legislature, it will not be barren of result. He would go further and express his belief that when those gentlemen are appealed to in the higher sense of patriotism and duty owed to the country by their connection with its trade, they will recognize the propriety of adopting a different procedure from that complained of by hon. Mr. Monroe poor relief. That point has been under and of conforming to the law enacted for the general weal. Thus will they be doing their duty to the community and advancing their serious issues we have to contend with. own interests at the same time. We know it | How to effectively deal with the growing dehas often been remarked that the fisherman who mand for able-bodied pauper relief is one of took special care to cure his fish well did the most puzzling questions that has confronted not receive a proportionate return for his the present as well as preceding governments; trouble by obtaining a higher price for his and he might say that a great deal of the time produce. Such being the case, it was useless of the sittings of the Executive is taken up to expect that fishermen would bestow proper attention upon the cure of fish. That argument seems a rational one, and it has been al-

price. It would appear to ordinary intelligence that an effectual way to mitigate the evil would be to pay a price according to the quality of the fish supplied, and that, under no circumstances, should the dealer producing fish of inferior quality be paid as high a price for it as he who cured it well. It is contrary to human nature to expect men-will bestow labor upon any object unless they expect to be recompensed for it. Children at school look for premiums as the reward of diligence; as people in most circumstances of life are stimulated to increased exertion by the hope of reward either in a material way, or by the independence of position which they expect it to create. When we hear, therefore, a gentleman so well informed upon the matter as Mr. Bowring state that the cure of Labrador and Bank fish last season exhibited a marked improvement upon preceding years, the inference is reasonable that the fishermen must have received proportionately better prices, and this seems to be the true mode to secure an improved condition of things in regard to this important industry. Respecting the modes of carrying on the fishery, the opinions of the fishermen of the country, with regard to the use of codtraps, sustain the argument of the hon. Mr. Monroe. He (C.S.) a few years ago had an opportunity of hearing their views in many parts of the Island, and it seemed strange that while there was a general concurrence as to their injurious effect upon the fishery, they still continued their use. It may be said that, on account of the expense of codtraps, only the better off planters use them, and that the great majority of the fishermen pursue the voyage by other modes. Be that as it may, he felt he was safe in saying that the opinion of the bulk of the fishermen of the country is, that codtraps are ruining the fish" eries and ruining those using them by rendering them indolent, careless, and less eager to work for a voyage than formerly. This, therefore, is a question that deserves the serious consideration of the Legislature, and in common with hon, members of this chamber take cognizance of such matters, detect defects and errors and point to the remedy. It is to be presumed the report of the Fishery Commission appointed by virtue of a measure of last session will exhibit much intelligent research, and whatever suggestions it may feel justified in putting forward in the interest of the fisheries will no doubt receive the favorable consideration the important issues involved demand. The remarks of the hon. the President contained allusion to subjects of serious import to all of us, chief of which is the question of poor relief. It might be rather premature to refer minutely to that matter pending the possession of the papers dealing with it, therefore he should not at present make any very extended observations upon it. The hon. the President has suggested the adoption of means of dealing with the poor expenditure different from the system now and previously in vogue, and thinks localizing the expenditure might induce the people of different districts to feel an interest in scrutinizing it and checking imposition. As has been stated, some years ago a proposal was made to levy local rates for the support of the poor of a locality, but the general opinion seemed to be that such a mode would be impracticable in this country and the idea was abandoned. Then it was suggested that district appropriations for roads and other purposes should, to some extent, bear the burthen of extraordinary expenditure for consideration of the Legislature for years, and the question is one of the most with the consideration of applications for the expenditure of money for relief of the destitute in some locality or other. When this drain leged, as additional reason for imperfect cure, is taken into account, together with the permathat the desire of suppliers to secure early nent poor expenditure, the prospect is really cargoes for exportation, has engendered haste serious. It is a fact that a large portion of and laxity in the handling of the voyage, and last year's road appropriations went to satisfy the reputation of the fish has in consequence this demand, and in response to urgent applisuffered. If these things be true, surely the cations the road grants for the present year in remedy lies, to a large extent, in the hands of the case of some districts have already in antithe suppliers and exporters themselves, and he cipation been expended to help the able-bodied failed to conceive how even motives of self- poor. Thus it will be seen that the question interest would not induce them to insist most comes home to every member of the Legislature. stringently on the production of an article that It is one that must be determinedly grappled

would obtain for them a more remunerative and dealt with, and by any means a greater