

important to this kingdom in its commercial relations, and intimately connected with its maritime strength.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS LACK.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

*Memorial.*

To the Right Honourable the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council for Trade.

The Memorial of the Committee of Merchants interested in the Treaty, Navigation, and Fisheries of the Island of Newfoundland, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the Coast of Labrador.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your Lordship's Petitioners presented to the Right Honourable the Earls of Liverpool and Bathurst early in the present year, a Memorial on the subject of the fisheries carried on at Newfoundland, on the coast of Labrador and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a copy of which they have the honour to annex, submitting to His Majesty's Ministers a statement in regard to those fisheries, and most earnestly entreating them in the event of any Treaties of Peace being made, to preserve to British subjects on their own coasts and shores the valuable exclusive fishery which they then enjoyed.

Anxious once more to draw the attention of His Majesty's Government to the fisheries in question, particularly since those carried on by the French are replaced on the advantageous footing of 1792, your Lordship's Memorialists humbly submit the following observations to show the injustice and impolicy of readmitting the citizens of the United States to any participation in the fisheries of Newfoundland, of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the Labrador shore.

Your Memorialists feel that the readmission of the French must materially affect the British fisheries, but if the Americans are permitted to regain the advantages they have heretofore enjoyed, your Memorialists have no hesitation in asserting to your Lordship that the British trade and fisheries of those places mentioned, must at no remote period be inevitably lost to this country.

The inhabitants of the United States possessed great advantages over the British. The IIIrd Article of the Treaty of Peace of 1783 gave them the right of fishing, not only on the Grand Bank, on all other banks of Newfoundland, and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but at all other places in the sea where the inhabitants of both countries used at any time heretofore to fish, and even the liberty to take fish, on the coasts, bays, and creeks of His Britannic Majesty's Dominions in America including Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador, wherever British fishermen shall use, and to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours and creeks of Labrador, Nova Scotia, and the Magdalen Islands. The advantages possessed by the French were enjoyed in the ten-fold degree by the Americans, for it may be safely affirmed that the outfit of their vessels and their whole equipment did not amount to one-half of the expense incurred in British shipping, more particularly in the article of provisions: they have not only open to them, equally with British subjects, the ports of Spain, Portugal, and Italy, but they have been even afforded markets for nearly 200,000 quintals of fish in the British Islands and Settlements in the West Indies; added to which they possess the still more important advantage, that of proximity to their fisheries, which, in 1791, Mr. Jefferson brought forward measures to render more extensively useful, and to which, in 1812, the State of Massachusetts, in their address to Congress ascribe the principal source of the wealth of the United States.

To enter somewhat more into detail of the American fisheries your Memorialists beg to state that, from the causes above-mentioned, they have increased with a rapidity beyond example.

That, in 1791, according to the official statement, the American export of dry and green fish amounted to about 390,000 quintals, and its value including oil to 1,656,480 dollars.