

ment with the people of Newfoundland which Her Majesty's Government voluntarily made; against which violation we record our most earnest protest, and to which we as a free people will never consent."

THE SECOND RESOLUTION

Was proposed by SIR JAMES S. WINTER, Q.C., K.C.M.G., seconded by JAMES BAIRD, Esq., and supported by EDGAR R. BOWRING, Esq., and is as follows:—

"Whereas the claims put forward by the French (1) to catch and preserve Lobsters, (2) to erect Lobster factories, and (3) to exclude our people from the prosecution of that industry, on certain parts of our coasts, are utterly without foundation or show of reason.

"And Whereas the exercise of such claims involves, in its consequences, not only directly the deprivation of our people of a valuable maritime industry, but also indirectly the settlement of a new French population with a permanent footing upon our soil, the locking up of the territorial resources of the colony, the extinction of every valuable industry and source of wealth to our people, and the virtual transfer of the sovereignty of the soil to a foreign power.

"And whereas the terms of the so-called *modus vivendi* not only accord to these unfounded pretensions the force and status of *bona fide* and reasonable claims, but confer upon the French the immediate actual possession and enjoyment of rights, territorial and maritime, to which these claims relate.

"And whereas these concessions, fraught as they are with dangers and consequences to our most sacred rights and most vital interests, so stupendous and far reaching, are entirely incompatible with the proper and effective maintenance of that position which unquestionably belongs of right to this colony and its people.

"And whereas the terms of the present arrangement clearly point to some contemplated settlement of disputes with the French, and in which their claims not only to further fishing privileges on our coasts, but to the permanent occupation and sovereignty of the soil, will be, or may be conceded.

"Be it therefore Resolved,—That for these further reasons, this meeting indignantly protests against the making of this arrangement; that the claims now set up by the French in relation to the Lobster fishery ought to have been met only by an absolute and unqualified denial; and that no arrangement, either for arbitration or otherwise, involving even the consideration of any possible right or claim on the part of the French to catch and preserve lobsters on our coast, to erect factories on our soil, or to hinder or interfere with our people in the prosecution of that industry, will we ever give our consent.