

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

importing provisions from thence will be a Cloke for purposes prejudicial to the Fishery and will be availed of by none but what have contraband views since such provisions can be had from the Mother Country or from Canada cheaper than from any of these States We therefore think it our Duty to second the request of those Concerned in the Newfoundland Fishery in order that the Province of Quebec may enjoy the Advantage of supplying its Sister Colony with those Articles of Provision which it is in its power so amply and effectually to do.¹

Fishery.

That as the Merchants concerned in the Trade to Newfoundland have applied to Government for certain Regulations with respect to Duties Bounties &c to countervail the Bounty lately granted by France for the Encouragement of the French Fisheries we conceive it will be equitable and equally beneficial to this Country that the same Advantages that may be granted to the Newfoundland Fishery should be extended to this and the other British Colonies in America.

Wine Fruit
& Olive Oil.

The Importation of these Articles direct from the places of their growth in Spain and Portugal is also asked by the Newfoundland Merchants—We the Merchants Trading to Quebec (who have repeatedly petitioned the Lords of the Treasury) therefore now renew our Application on this Head—²The Inhabitants of Canada when under the French Government were accustomed to Red French Wine as their Common Beverage—the Duties on French Wine in England being so excessive high, the Red Wine of Catalona which is the nearest in point of quality was introduced from Two thousand five hundred to Three thousand Hogsheads of it have been imported into Canada annually—The great Expence of Freight and other Charges attending the bringing this Wine to England to Land, clear and reship for Canada is almost equal to the first Cost and Duty the original Cost being but thirty @ thirty five shillings p hogshead and the Duty Seventeen shillings and sixpence. It has been and must be the means of introducing a fraudulent Trade by which a greater part of the Consumption is and will be supplied in French Wines which Trade will now be facilitated by the Independance of the neighbouring States and therefore we conceive in point of Revenue as well as for the Advantage of this Colony it would be proper to permit the Entry of Wine direct from Spain and Portugal on payment of the same Duties that would remain on it when exported from Great Britain—Fruit and Olive Oil we

¹ The question of the Newfoundland trade and fisheries was a subject of vigorous and prolonged discussion in the British Parliament and press at this time.

² Under the Colonial policy embodied in the Navigation Acts of the time, not only must such limited trade as was permitted with foreigners be conducted exclusively in British ships, but the trade must pass through British ports and not directly between a foreign country and colonial ports.