

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

"On reference to your instructions you will perceive that the clause prohibiting the Governor from giving his assent to any tax affecting the trade or commerce of the mother country has been omitted. It is, therefore, only necessary for me to desire that you will not assent to any Act imposing discriminating duties on British produce, or taxes for other purposes than those of raising a revenue."

I have only further to acquaint you that, with the reservation above made, I shall have no hesitation in assenting to any Revenue Bill in which the two branches of the Legislature may agree, provided it be such as, in other respects, shall meet with my concurrence. But, under existing circumstances, as represented by you, I can only lament that I possess no power to relieve you from the embarrassment under which you state you at present labour.

No. 4.

(No. 13.)

— No. 4. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *T. Cochrane* to Viscount *Goderich*.

Government-house, St. John's, Newfoundland,

14 March 1833.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the accompanying address to the King from the House of Assembly of this island, on the subject of the rejection by the Council of their Revenue Bill, on the grounds set forth therein, and to request your Lordship will be pleased to lay the same before His Majesty.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Thos. Cochrane*.

Enclosure in No. 4.

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To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Representatives of Newfoundland, convened at St. John's in General Assembly.

May it please your Majesty,

WE the representatives of your Majesty's faithful Commons of Newfoundland, beg leave most respectfully to express on their behalf to our most gracious Sovereign the sincere attachment felt throughout this island for your Majesty's person and Government.

We also take this early opportunity of tendering to your Majesty, in the name of the inhabitants of this colony, our warmest gratitude for the gracious manner in which your Majesty has listened to the petitions of your dutiful and loyal subjects, and the interest manifested by your Majesty for their happiness and welfare, in granting to this the oldest of your foreign possessions a legislative constitution, similar to that enjoyed by your Majesty's neighbouring colonies. Convened at this time in our legislative capacity, our best endeavours have been and shall be used to ameliorate the condition of our constituents and of the colony at large, by the enactment of those local laws and ordinances, the want of which has been so long and severely felt.

In the early part of the Session his Excellency the Governor, with a view to facilitate the advancement of the public business, laid before us an estimate of the civil establishment of the colony, with a statement of the amount of revenue at present collected under Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and showing the sum yet necessary to be raised to meet the public expenses of the Government. Our attention was also directed to the adoption of some more satisfactory system of administering justice than that now in operation, to the encouragement of the fisheries and agriculture, and to the opening of a more safe and speedy communication between the different settlements of the island by means of roads, as objects of primary importance, and as best calculated to improve the condition of the poorer classes, rendered still more unfortunate by the total failure of the potatoe crop during the last season. For carrying these useful purposes into effect, but more particularly for defraying the charges of the civil establishment, we took into our consideration the ways and means of raising such amount of revenue as, in addition to the sum at present at our disposal, we considered would be required.

On a careful review of the resources of the colony, and the means of raising a revenue, which presented themselves to our minds, we deemed it a duty imperatively incumbent upon us not only to avoid direct taxation, in itself always odious, but carefully to abstain from levying taxes which would in any manner increase the price of articles necessarily consumed by the poor and that class of the hardy inhabitants of the island engaged in the fisheries. In accordance with these views we framed a Bill (a copy of which is hereunto annexed, and to which, for greater certainty, we humbly crave leave to refer your Majesty,) imposing duties on certain articles of luxury, the growth and production of foreign countries, and also a duty upon British spirits, which latter duty, by the operation of an Act of the Imperial

Parliament,