

P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO THE

FISHERIES OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

CANADA.

CANADA.

No. 1.

(No. 55.)

No. 1.

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Earl of DALHOUSIE to the Right Hon. Earl BATHURST, dated November 14, 1826.

(Received, December 21, 1826.)

"THE Deep Sea fisheries on the Orphan and other banks have long been nearly destroyed by the numbers of American vessels (not less than twelve or fifteen hundred) which resort to these interior banks on our coasts. This has long been a subject of serious complaint. * * * *

"A superintendent of the fisheries I think most essential; and although it is evident that several public officers are required on such extensive public concerns, yet I would be content were these duties confided to that one gentleman whom I have repeatedly pointed out to your Lordship as capable of rendering great services to Government in that quarter,—I allude to Mr. Crawford, whose abilities, activity, and character have already established him in the esteem and confidence of the people so as to be the arbiter and judge in their disputes." * * * *

(No. 4.)

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Earl of DALHOUSIE to the Right Hon. Earl BATHURST.

Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, Jan. 8, 1827.

(Received, Feb. 26, 1827.)

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MY LORD,

(Answered, January 6, 1827.)

THE nomination of the Superintendent of the Fisheries in Gaspé obliges me to ask of your Lordship some more accurate information on that subject than I have been able to obtain here, or even from the officers of the Navy whom I have had any opportunity of conversing with upon it, and who have been employed in cruising in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for the protection of our fisheries.

Your Lordship knows that repeated complaints have been made by those occupied in the fisheries along the shores of Gaspé and Bay Chaleurs; that they have been for the last ten years wholly overpowered by the American fishing vessels which resort there annually; an average of 1,500 sail pass at Canso into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, spreading early in the season along the Labrador shore high up in the salmon fisheries near the rivers of the Mingan and Seven Islands, then to the Magdalen Islands and Cape Breton shore, and latterly coming down upon the Gaspé shore, Orphan Bank, and north shore of Prince Edward's Island, completely driving the British fishermen out of their way.

I have in vain endeavoured to ascertain the exact bounds granted by treaty to the American fishing vessels. The only Act I have seen, and with which the captains of the Navy are furnished, is the convention of 1818, by which the advantage of fishing is expressly limited along the south shore of Newfoundland, the west coast of the Straights of Belleisle, the Labrador coast to Mount Joli; thence across by the east point of Anticosti to the Magdalen. By that description I should consider that the fisheries on the interior bank and gulf were not permitted to them, nor any rendezvous in the narrows of the Gut of Canso;