

being to prevent supply to foreign subsidized rivals. Fulllest rights and privileges of all British fishermen to take or purchase for their own use, as hitherto enjoyed, will be maintained. Please communicate this information to your representative or agents in London, to remove objection to our Act and promote Royal assent."

"(Signed) Attorney General."

That was when the original correspondence took place in regard to the first imposition of the Bait Act; the first Bait Act of 1886 was disallowed, and then the Bait Act of 1887 was passed, and it was to secure the disallowance of this second Act, I presume, that the Canadian Government were pressing the claims of Canada. It was upon these grounds that the Canadian Government felt that the Government of Newfoundland had treated Canadian fishermen unfairly. I think on enquiry as to that particular despatch from the Attorney General of Newfoundland, dated April 20, 1887, which is the one that we depend upon to show the ground we had to stand upon, it will be found that the stand the Government of Newfoundland took in 1891 has not been unjustifiable on their part to insure the carrying out of their policy. If they felt they were not able to carry out the purpose of the law which they had enacted for the protection of their fishermen without imposing a license fee upon Canadian fishermen, there is nothing in this clause that would prevent them from doing that without a charge of breaking faith being preferred against them, because you will see that the telegram states:

"Act necessarily framed so as to confer upon Governor discretionary powers in granting licenses to sell or export bait, our only object being to prevent supply to foreign subsidized rivals."

Now, if they found they could not, under the Bait Act which they had passed, prevent the supplying of bait to foreign subsidized rivals, they were justified in taking such steps as would enable them to do so. We have no serious ground of complaint against them on that score. The despatch goes on to say:

"Fulllest rights and privileges of all British fishermen to take or purchase for their own use, as hitherto, will be maintained."

You see there what was reserved to Canadian fishermen under that notification from the Attorney General of Newfoundland was

that any bait fishes that they required to prosecute their own fisheries, for their own use, they would be at full liberty to take within the 3-mile limit of the Newfoundland coast, but of course it did not intend to convey to them the right of taking bait within the 3-mile limit of the Newfoundland coast and sell it to the fishermen of St. Pierre in contradistinction to the policy of the Newfoundland Government. Then it would rest entirely upon the assumption that such a contravention of the policy of the Newfoundland Government had taken place on the part of the Canadian fishermen. If the Canadian fishermen did not sell to the French fishermen at St. Pierre it would appear to be an unfriendly act.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Is the hon. gentleman aware that the Canadian Department of Marine and Fisheries has challenged the Newfoundland Government to produce a single instance in which a Canadian fisherman has violated the terms of the Act by selling bait to the French? They are yet without an answer to the challenge.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I am aware of that, but it appears to be a case of non-intercourse. There was a return also called for of certain moneys that were jointly to be accounted for as license fees. The Newfoundland Government refused to give any answer and it seems to me that we have got into relations with our sister colony which really means non-intercourse. You cannot blame the people of Newfoundland for not answering a challenge of that sort under the circumstances. I propose to read from the report of Captain Sir Baldwin Walker, who was sent by the Imperial Government to enquire into the working of the Bait Act, an extract to show you that there was a certain amount of justification for the feeling that the Newfoundland fishermen had with regard to the matter. When I come to it you will see what he says on the subject. The Newfoundland people went to a great deal of trouble to secure our co-operation. I recollect they came to Canada and waited on the Boards of Trade of Montreal, Hamilton, Halifax, Toronto and other places. They sent round a pamphlet, a copy of which I received as a member of this House, and they believe, setting forth their claims, and they showed every disposition to enlist the sympathies of Canada on their behalf, but ap-