

8th & 9th January, 1833.

SIR THOMAS JOHN COCHRANE, KNIGHT, Governor.

To His Excellency SIR THOMAS JOHN COCHRANE, Knight, Governor and Commander-in-Chief Memorial from Brigus.
&c. &c. &c.

The Petition of the Inhabitants of Brigus, in Conception Bay,—

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That owing to the disastrous failure of the extensive Establishment of Mr. Charles Cozens, Merchant in this place, the poorer class are left destitute both of present subsistence and the means of obtaining any whatever; and that the most appalling distress prevails among them, without any means to alleviate it.

That not only at this period does the distress prevail, as appears from the report of a Committee appointed to investigate the habitations and circumstances of the needy individuals, but an assured expectation of the continuance of such distress through a long and anticipated severe Winter, whereby your Petitioners have reason to dread famine and death must be the result.

That according to the report of the investigating Committee, 223 families have been visited containing 1421 persons, of which there are 91 families who are either entirely destitute or have not more than a week's subsistence, 72 families that have about a month's provisions each family, and the residue enough to subsist on until the First day of March next.

That hitherto there has been an extensive Seal Fishery carried on in this place, and by this unfortunate failure it will be in a great measure lessened, whereby hundreds will be thrown out of employment, which will add greatly to the distress, and augments the fears of your Petitioners.

Whereupon your Petitioners most humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to take the same into your consideration, and send relief as early as possible, lest the severity of the Winter may shut up the intercourse between this place and St. John's, and thereby cause what is most fearfully expected; and, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

We are,

Your Excellency's most devoted and obedient servants,

(Signed) WILLM. SWEETLAND,
Chairman,

And 13 other Individuals.

Brigus, January 1st, 1833.

It was then Resolved, that the anxiety with which the Council had previously regarded the state and condition of a large portion of the population of this Island, has been sensibly increased by the Message just delivered from His Excellency the Governor on the subject of the distress at present prevailing in the settlements of Brigus and Bay of Bulls. That the Members of the Council, individually and collectively, deeply sympathize in the sufferings and privations in which they believe many of the Inhabitants of the Colony are involved through the depressed state of its Trade and Fisheries, and by the universal failure of the Potato Crop: and they will cordially concur in any measure for the relief of the now existing distress, which may be proposed by that branch of the Legislature in which the right of originating such measure is by the Constitution exclusively vested.

Resolution that the Council will cordially concur with the House of Assembly in any measure that may be proposed for the relief of the distressed settlements.

Adjourned until To-morrow, 1 p. m.

WEDNESDAY, 9th JANUARY, 1833.

Present,

His Honor RICHARD ALEXANDER TUCKER, Esquire, President.

The Honorable COLONEL SALL, Commandant.

„ „ JAMES SIMMS, Esquire, Attorney General.

„ „ JAMES CROWDY, Esquire, Colonial Secretary.

„ „ JAMES MORTON SPEARMAN, Esquire, Collector of the Customs.

„ „ WILLIAM HALY, Esquire.

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