

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN.

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HARBOUR GRACE WEDNESDAY MARCH 25.

We observe, that among the few acts passed the last session, one for the erection of a Light House on Bacallieu, has received the necessary sanction, and however dissatisfied with the general conduct of the Government, we cannot forbear expressing on the part of the people of this district, our gratitude for even this measure of justice. We would gladly be enabled to record the passing of many other necessary acts remedial and progressive, but have been once more subjected to disappointment; it seems that our Ministry have been struck by the astounding report of the *Anglo-French Convention*; the same do not scruple to assert that they were not fully cognizant of the arrangement, at least aware that some such negotiation was pending, long before the public became apprised of that fact. If this be true, or if there be any particle of truth in the charge, a serious account will shortly have to be rendered to the Country. The Leader of the opposition has expressed his determination to sift this matter to the bottom, and assign the Ministerial culprit, should such be found, soon as the great question of the day is disposed of, and we have witnessed sufficient in the House of Assembly, during the Session of 1856 to justify an opinion that the Ministry will find it difficult to exonerate themselves from the charge, at least on the French and obstinate neglect, when minutely wanted by the Hon. Member for Burgeo, and Lapail, that some resolutions had been submitted for Imperial consideration.

Leaving this subject for the present, it only remains for us to express our regret that so little was done during the last Session for the general benefit of the Country, thus rendering it necessary to have another Session at an early day for the purpose of completing those duties now left unfinished, and ordering the Colony with an additional six thousand pounds sterling in the shape of Contingencies.

(From the Times.)

The Tariff of this island (passed for another year) is a very burdensome one, and presses more heavily upon the poorer and industrious classes of our community than a judicious government would be inclined to adopt. Molasses and tea, two of the heaviest articles, and almost solely the commodities used by the poor fisherman to strengthen and sustain him in his severe and arduous labours, paid nearly one-half the amount of surplus revenue collected the past year—revenue so badly and so pompously boasted of by the Receiver-General in laying the estimate before the house. Now, should a tax, on any pretence, be continued?—seeing that the common consumption, used chiefly by the fisherman and the other industrious portions of our population, pays no less a duty than the hyson, gunpowder, and pearl teas used by the Receiver-General; and those of his stamp who are well able to sustain the additional tax.

It may not be amiss to state here, that the superior broad-cloth and velvets and satins of the wealthy pay no higher duty in proportion than the dingy jacket, the serge shirt, and the swastika and muleskin trousers of the labouring man, the source and prop of the national wealth. Or, in plainer terms, the latter—the poor man—pays as heavy duty as the former, the rich and wealthy. We may also observe, that 10 per cent. is now put on boots and shoes and all leatherware; and it is understood that a still further advance will have to be paid on new goods per Cossauina and other vessels hourly expected at this port. Now, surely it was not unreasonable to expect that "the People's members" (bless the name!) would in the arrangement of the revenue for the year have so framed their tariff that whatever reduction that could reasonably be made should be adopted and carried out (and the revenue would not have been affected by that reduction) to relieve and assist the now overburdened fisherman and mechanic through the difficulties they have to encounter at this crisis in the high prices of provisions and clothing which they necessarily require to sustain themselves and their families. No consideration is to be taken of those privations which the poor suffer will influence these now in power so long as they continue to receive their enormous salaries wrung from the sweat and life-blood of the people. In this matter of salary you will not need the high-minded and honorable Receiver-General say "it is enough," as he did when remonstrated with by the poor man's friend, Mr. Ellis: *Fifteen pence a-head* or some one hundred and eighty or ninety infirm and aged and blind and helpless was "enough" said the Hon. gentleman for—mark you, gentle reader—*eight long months of a northern winter! Fifteen pence a-head* to subsist on! How would the Receiver-General himself like to be reduced to that figure by way of trying his stomach on the fare he could procure with that beggarly pittance? But increase of taxation appears to be the ruling passion with such Patriots; and certainly no consideration for the Poor appears to enter, or emanate from their rapacious hearts.

THE following observations upon the late "Fishery Convention" by Mr. Claudius Watts are valuable, demonstrating clearly why do the great injustice to which the inhabitants of this country would be subjected by the concessions alluded to:—

I am a native of this Island, and have been engaged in the general trade, and fisheries of the Country, have also prosecuted the Cod-fishery at Labrador—was many years trading to the French shore, and perfectly acquainted with the various localities—have gone in boats from place to place where I could not take my Vessel, for the purpose of doing business with the inhabitants British subjects—many of them British born—and their descendants.

Thus experienced, I may give expression to my convictions, that the Concessions made to the French by the treaty in question, are most unreasonable, and must, if carried out, have a ruinous effect on the Colony, and that they would be most unjust to hundreds of settlers scattered along the whole line of coast, from Cape John to Cape Ray; the greater number of those persons have sought establishments, many of them derive support from the Salmon and Seal fisheries, in some places the Cod fishery is resorted to merely as an auxiliary, in a few places it forms almost the sole means of support, to the west of Ferrol nothing is done in the Seal fishery, the means of support being Salmon and Cod fishery, aided in sheltered places by agriculture. The Seal fishery, and the fur business are carried on during the autumn and winter months—periods of the year when the French have not the shadow of a claim to any portion of the coast.

In many parts the Salmon fishery is carried on in places altogether unfit for the prosecution of the Cod fishery, in small coves, and creeks, at the mouths of rivers, and in some cases a quarter of a mile from the sea. The settlers have always considered the Salmon fishery a branch of business peculiarly their own, one with which the French had nothing to do; especially all river points, and that they were fully justified in defending their individual rights to those by the use of force, as if necessary, they have hitherto been of opinion that they have a good right to catch Codfish as the French on any and every portion of the coast, and also looked forward to have those concurrent rights fully established. But what is the result? these poor isolated families will be filled with dismay, when they learn that they are intruders, that the parent country has discovered them, literally thrown them overboard, and that they are left to the tender mercies of the French who have long had a hankering after their small little establishments, that they are to be expatriated, as if to a regular system of spoliation—how are they to get away from this part of the coast?—They have no craft larger than punts, with the French convey them elsewhere, or must they remain and perish? but even all this did not satisfy the French; they must have the use of the strand, and a considerable distance inland to obtain materials for fishing purposes—that is the choice of the best timber, and to take lands to any extent; of what use then is the interior without the sea board of which we are by stipulation deprived from Cape John to Rock Point in the Bay of Islands, at the north side the mouth of the river Hamlet; but we have a concurrent right of fishery—what advantage is this? The French have the only places where it can be prosecuted with advantage, exclusively to themselves, from Point John to Bay there is no port or place of safety with the exception of port Saunders, and Hawks Bay in perfectly sound and safe point Bay; they are tolerably good Harbours as places of refuge, but not convenient for fishing purposes. Proceeding westward you have nearly a south-west line of coast with no indentures or any place of safety for even a small boat to ride at anchor—Bay is one of the finest ports in the world, it is merely a large Harbor having a narrow entrance about 4 or 5 miles from the mouth of the Bay, where it spreads to the west, and south having three splendid arms, completely land-locked—the oil good, and well wooded to high water mark—the pine here attains to a large size, but not to the Eastward of this; why was this splendid Bay given up to the French? they never carried on the fishery there—from its geographical position, and natural advantage it is destined at some future day to be a place of the utmost importance, the traffic seldom comes to the heads, it is a place of easy access, having deep water close to the shore, at almost all places; the timber is suitable for building large vessels; it would afford an excellent naval station. The numerous disembarques by Rock Point the terms of the French exclusive right to the strand; on the west the sea lateral boundary will sweep away the property of several English families some of which have been in possession 30 years, and must these people quit at 15 days warning? yes, if they have lately built new houses, but if they still occupy the old ones they will have 6 months grace—Most extraordinary! In this Convention there is not one clause to protect British interests, but great stringency where those of the French are concerned.

From the western side of this arm to Cape Ray we have a concurrent right of fishery, with the exclusive use of the strand, save Port au Port Red Island, and Codby Island; here again the only place in which the fishery can be carried on

reserved exclusively by the French, with the exception of two small posts at the west side the Bay of Islands (Laek, and York Harbours) very near the west head, to the east of which are two small Islands not a mile in circuit each; here the French have temporary erections for splitting, and salting fish, as they are nearer the fishing ground, and save the time which would be lost going into these Harbours.

Sir I cannot perceive that the French have made any sacrifice with the exceptions here stated, for the great—the ruinous Concessions made them by this wonderful convention. From Bay of Islands to Port au Port the shore is bounded by a lofty range of mountains rising abruptly from the sea, without cove, or creek, or place of shelter, for even a punt, exposed to the storms of the Gulf of St. Lawrence from S. W. to N. W. what can the fisherman do here? positively nothing—what can the agriculturist do? (to use a solecism) still less. The sun does not shine on the N. West sides of those mountains, for many months until it is a point to set, and even in summer, its rays do not visit the ground, solitude until 8 or 9 A. M. from Port au Port, to Cape St. George, north side St. George's Bay, the coast is somewhat broken—entirely without shelter, save that afforded by Red Island; this belongs to the French, its radius of three miles. The whole Coast from Cape St. George, to Bay of Islands, with the exception of these two reserved places, Red Island, and Port au Port is perfectly useless to France; it was very generous of them to give us that which was of no use to them, or even can be. Bay St. George is wide at its mouth exposed to the storms of the St. Lawrence also, with great surf along the shores, without Harbours or places of shelter, and unfit for fishery purposes; this they also graciously give up; but Codroy Island, immediately south of Cape Anguille, has good fishing ground, good anchorage for large vessels, and a snug little cove facing the mainland, from which it is not more than 100 yards distant; this was valuable to give up, and was reserved with its three miles radius, which sweeps away many a nice little settlement on the mainland. But then they give up great and little Codroy Rivers, and as far as Cape Ray; these rivers are not fit for large vessels to enter, and are not suitable for fishery purposes—Cape Ray is exposed to all winds, from North round southerly to East, with a sun always on its shore, here again the French give what is of no value to them—but they have a concurrent right of fishery all along this coast, with the right to take bait from Cape La Hone, to Cape St. Marys—How reasonable how moderate, why not have it from Cape Ray to Cape St. Marys? for this good reason it would have been of no use to them, otherwise they might have asked and had the right to take bait on this immense line of coast is fraught with ruin to our fishery on the south part of the Island. Will the French purchase that which they may have for taking? the idea is preposterous! Our Government have no conceptions of the requirements of the French in Bay; they have very extensive fisheries about St. Peters and Miquelon independent of their Bank or deep sea fishery (the largest in the world) conducted in a manner peculiar to themselves by the Buto.

There is a question of great national importance involved in this fishery business which does not meet the eye at first. Great Britain with her vast Colonial possessions looks with contempt on the fisheries and trade of Newfoundland, the French regard it as the greatest nursery for seamen which her grasp, and do all they can to foster and protect it, and by those vast Concessions, which no sane man could contemplate being granted, will call forth a proportional increase in the outfit for the fishery from the Channel and Biscayan ports of France. There is no business in the world equal to the French Bank fisheries, and one voyage makes a green hand a good ordinary seaman.

French fishermen may be drifted into the navy as soon as the voyage is up, it comes a fresh batch of green hands to go through the same course or training and so on continually this is the great object their government, and for his the bounty is accorded; and by this at no distant day the maritime supremacy of England will be endangered.

Our Government takes care that the French shall have a plentiful supply of bait for the future, so as to enable them to get early on the fishing ground and by this means catch the large breeding fish and keep the smaller sort from approaching the shore and thus eventually destroy the source of our shore fisheries on that coast, which must lead to its depopulation; and what class of people are likely to emigrate? Not the aged and the infirm, but the young, the active and the strong, the very class that forms a national strength.

Again we find that the French are to have possession of the Island from Cape St. Mary's to Cape La Hone and from Cape Ray to Cape John, leaving us the South East part, about one-third of the sea-board of the Island; and for all the vast concessions we are to have what was our own by previous treaties. And this was not enough for French rapacity, they must have the right of fishery on the coast of Labrador, from Blanc Sablon to Cape Charles; and also at Bell Isle with the use of that shore for curing

the fish. Now sir it is a well known fact that in the Straits of Bell Isle the Cod fishery commenced in the west; proving that the fish pass round the Island to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and through the Strait to the Eastward. The French (propped up as they are by bounties on Fish and drawbacks on goods) do everything on a large scale, they have large crews, large sums &c. and will sweep the whole of this coast, destroy the Fish by wholesale, and prevent its passing to the Eastward and on to other parts of the Coast; our people who have carried on the fishery in the Straits hitherto with success, will have to quit, leaving this part of the coast also in the hands of our great fishing rivals.

Yielding the right of fishing on the Labrador side the Straits of Bell Isle was doing great injustice to our fellow colonists of P. E. Island Nova Scotia New Brunswick and Quebec, for they all prosecute the Cod and herring fisheries of Labrador, they with us must be driven out of the field, reasoning by analogy (cause and effect) we know we cannot compete with the French, the history of the past has proved to demonstration, that wherever they have taken up a position and established themselves for fishery purposes we have been compelled to quit owing to the high bounties low wages and cheap diet. Our people would scarcely subsist upon the meagre diet the French fishermen are compelled to be satisfied with.

I speak prophetically when I say that if by our opposition the concessions made to France shall fail to be ratified—Great Britain will owe us a debt of gratitude which she will be slow to acknowledge judging from the fact that her wise and paternal Government seems to have forgotten that we are not an agricultural people, but that the cod-fishery is the life blood of the country.

List of Sealers Supplied by Ridley & Sons
Spring 1857

Vessels.	Masters.	Tons.	Men.
Greyhound	T. Noonan	153	48
Merrose	Edward J Pike	162	43
Elizabeth Wm	John Stephenson	134	49
Luiza	Patricia Strapp	115	45
Brothers	Jouathan Noel	108	45
Umou	George Pike	135	45
Susan Lass	Henry Thomey	123	44
Linda	William Briggs	121	46
Adamant	John Murray	128	45
Argo	M. Fitzgerald	114	45
Avation	Richard Cleary	131	47
Jaac	John Scully	131	45
John Jay	John Ryan	131	45
Land	John Edumbray	128	45
Wave	Edward Pike	94	31
Albatross	John Clavette	105	36
Arial	James Duclut	72	25
Terra Nova	Charles Pike	110	36
Imaan	Henry Hamilton	83	30
Myrtle	James Murphy	103	43
Suir	John Murray	100	45
I Margaret	From Seidon come By Ardanna Deas	74	30
Princess	From St. Johns John C. Heater	99	33
William	From Harour M. Coscillo	85	36
Ellen	John Strapp	126	42

Vessels supplied by Panton & Mann for the
Seal Fishery, 1857.

Vessels.	Masters.	Tons.	Men.
Elfrida	Pike	126	45
Bride	Brien	159	42
Favorite	Smart	117	45
Maria	Keefe	131	42
Rose	Benson	112	35
John Mary	Parsons	104	35
Umou	Parsons	86	33
Hornet	Shawner	80	30
William	Green	114	32
Penguin	Davis	106	42
Sammon	Pike	102	42
E. Margaret	Power	108	30
Thrasher	From Barenood Hennebury	141	53
True Friend	From Brigus Antle	111	42
Eclipse	From Carbonar. Taylor	143	45
Supero	Taylor	111	38
John Martin	Taylor	75	28
James	From Catalina Lynch	109	36
Landee	Power Masou	112	35
		92	32

HARBOUR GRACE.

Supplied by William Donnelly.

Chanticleer	Stapleton	157	45
Rae	Thompson	136	45
Caroline	Farré	120	40
Regia	Wills	122	42
Jessima	Verge	132	40
Paragon	Patrick Deversuz. Brauders	124	40
Express	Knox	130	40
Laurel	Daniel Green. Green	149	50
Edward	Hayes	112	45

Funchal
 Robert An
 Vessel
 L. of Lake
 Rosalie
 Walrus
 Secret
 Herald
 Trial
 Broadbar
 J. G. Leary
 Morning S
 P. Royal
 Margaret J
 Aurora
 Mary
 Victoria
 L. D
 Dolgin
 Margaret J
 J. G. Leary
 M. G. A
 John G. A
 Thomas R. J
 Echo
 Bridgewater
 Mary
 True Blue
 Six Brothers
 Samuel
 Sailed
 Dash
 Two Brothers
 Jessy
 Charles Clift
 Bloomer
 Albatross
 Falcon
 Active
 S. E. A
 Glide
 P. W.
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