

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN

[From the Times]

The following is a copy of the Petition to the Queen, Lords and Commons. Petitions are open for signature at the shop and at other establishments in town.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE INHABITANTS OF ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

Humbly Sheweth—

That we have heard, with sentiments of deep dismay, of a Convention signed on the 14th January last, between Her Majesty and the Emperor of the French, by which it is proposed to give to the subjects of France fishing privileges on the most valuable parts of the coasts of this Colony.

That we respectfully submit that no portion of the Territorial or Fishing Rights of this Colony can be alienated without the consent of the Local Legislature, and we hopefully rely for protection, in the present emergency, on the admission of our Constitutional Privileges contained in said Convention, which makes the concurrence of the Local Government necessary to give it effect.

That we are constrained, by a solemn sense of duty to our Country, to refuse our assent to a measure that would lead to the ruin of British interests and the exodus of our population.

That such would be the inevitable result, we know by the experience of the past—where the French are permitted to fish, British subjects have been compelled to withdraw—our private enterprise being unable to cope with the operations of the French, who are sustained by large Bounties from the Imperial Treasury.

That ultimately, if the Convention were adopted, Newfoundland would cease to be a British Colony; for the present population, ruined by its operation, would flee in disgust when British protection was thus withdrawn from the oldest British North American Dependency of the Crown.

That we pray your Majesty, to sustain this Colony in its resistance to a measure which would not only prove disastrous to us, but would at no distant day, enable a Foreign Power to dismember the Empire by possessing itself of this Island—the key of the British North American Provinces.

ABSTRACT OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, February 17.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Mr. PRENDERGAST presented a petition from Owen Chapin and others, of Spaniards Bay, on the subject of roads; also, from Martin Healy, for compensation for loss by fire in Adelaide street.

Mr. TALBOT presented a petition from Patrick Strapp, and others, of Lance Cove Conception Bay, on the subject of roads.

Mr. FOX presented a petition from William Pitts, of Bell Isle, on the subject of a ferry.

Mr. F. CARTER presented a petition from William Minty, constable of Bird Island Cove, praying for a stipend.

Foregoing petitions ordered to lie on the table.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table of the House the Financial Secretary's certified copies of the public accounts.

Hon. RECEIVER GENERAL, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table of the House the financial statement for the year 1857: Estimate for the same year; assets and liabilities for the same year; statement of the accounts of Receiver General for the year 1853; statement of Receiver General's consolidated custom's accounts; statements of imports and exports of 1856.

Foregoing Documents were ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. PRENDERGAST gave notice, that on tomorrow he would move for the appointment of a committee to examine the Public Accounts and report thereon.

Mr. ELLIS gave notice that on tomorrow he would move for a copy of the instructions issued to J. L. Prendergast, Esq., previously to his leaving for Labrador as Preventive Officer or otherwise; also any other instructions he may have afterwards received.

Hon. RECEIVER GENERAL gave notice that on Tuesday next, he should move that a Supply be granted to Her Majesty.

Mr. PRENDERGAST gave notice that on tomorrow he would move for an Address to His Excellency the Governor, praying His Excellency to cause an enquiry to be made into the case of Michael Healy, St. John's dealer.

The House then adjourned to 3 o'clock tomorrow.

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN

HARBOUR GRACE, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4.

The public meeting upon the Fishery Convention being formally opened by the Sheriff G. C. Jaden Esq., The Hon. John Mann was unanimously called to the Chair and spoke to the following effect:—

Gentlemen—
During a period of 24 years, I have frequently had to take part in public matters which concerned your interests, but never had I the honor to stand before you for the purpose of discussing such an important and momentous question as the present; being no less than to consider whether we are to be deprived of our dearest rights and privileges as British Subjects, or whether by a firm, but respectful resistance, we are to remain in possession of the fishing privileges which have been handed down by your Fathers, for your advantage and for the advantage of your children.

The Convention which we are this day called upon to consider, involves, not only certain rights and privileges dear to every Briton, but the means of subsistence, the very bread of your wives and children, and upon our failure or success, in connection with others, must depend the destiny of the Country.

I regret that I am not competent properly to treat upon the grave and momentous subjects, which it is our duty this day to lay before you, but I may briefly state that our dearest rights and privileges are being sacrificed to the French by ministers, whose duty it should be to protect us, and we have no resource, but by appeal to our most Gracious Queen, and the Imperial Parliament, and this I trust will be done in a proper spirit of Loyalty to our Sovereign, and just appreciation of our rights as British Subjects.

The evils of which we have now to complain, are but a continuation of injustice to this country; more than 40 years ago, we were deprived of the best part of our own coasts on this Island; and our once prosperous Bank Fisheries, have been lost to us by concurrent right, yielded to our adversaries, the French: The Property which your Fathers inherited, and hoped to transmit to you was taken; and the Fishermen were driven to prosecute the voyage at a distance from their homes, on the rugged coast of Labrador, to seek the means of living, and now you are to be deprived even of this privilege for the advantage of the children of a foreign soil, and if we are not successful in our resistance, nothing will remain but to leave the country of your birth or your adoption and seek elsewhere, employment and a new home, let us bear in mind that our families' bread depend upon our efforts.

The question may be asked, how could the rights of British Subjects be bartered by British Ministers? we reply that what has been done before may be done again, but not in ignorance, the Imperial Government knew well the advantages which were being thus secretly and summarily disposed of: Our late Excellent Governor Hamilton, with that anxious solicitude for your welfare which characterized all his acts in this country, in his despatches invariably urged the injustice of placing aliens upon an equality with you upon your own shores, and deprecated any further concessions to the French. The Hon. Mr. Crowdy also, who for twenty years devoted his best energies for the interests of the country; when administering the Government took occasion strenuously to urge the claims of the Colony upon the Home Government for protection. The late Attorney General Archibald pursued the same honorable course, whenever occasion offered for asserting the inalienable character of your privileges; and more recently Governor Darling entered largely into the question and by an admirable Despatch in which the subject was fairly discussed and your exclusive rights properly established,—gave all necessary information to the Colonial Minister. Nor should it be forgotten that the Hon. P. F. Little was delegate from this Country to England, and obtained a Promise from the Duke of Newcastle that no further concession should be made to the French without the deliberate consent of our local Parliament.

Thus then no excuse, no palliation can be urged by ministers for an act, which would prove, either their incapacity or indifference to the welfare of their fellow subjects in Newfoundland.

We resort to strong language, but it is justified by the occasion; and, it is only by way of remonstrance To the Queen and Her Government we acknowledge a firm, and trustworthy allegiance; but when our very means of existence, are in the balance, it becomes us to speak fearlessly, and boldly, that all may understand.

You have been deprived of the French Shore, and of the Bank Fishery's rights, which should have been held sacred for your benefit, and for the benefit of your children, and now, by this concession, you would be deprived of the Labrador. Concurrent rights with the French is a mockery; wherever they have been attempted to be established, they have proved a failure, and nothing like an equivalent has been or can be offered, to the people of this country.

I rejoice that the subject has been properly taken up by the Legislature, and it is our duty to

strengthen and support them in the stand which they have taken: With them we must lay our complaints at the foot of the Throne; and I do most sincerely trust, that the Imperial Government will find it necessary to retrace the wrong course which they have taken.

In Proposing the 1st Resolution Mr. W. H. Ridley spoke as follows.

Gentlemen I am unused to public speaking, but feel constrained to come forward upon the present occasion, for the purpose of uniting with you, in seeking the security of our common interests; In no other state in the world has such an attempt been made, to deprive its subjects of rights so ancient and indisputable, as those we seek to preserve. It would appear that the Imperial Government, in order to satisfy the unreasonable demands of France, would deprive us of the most valuable part of our fishing coast, of privileges long enjoyed by our Fishermen; and which, it was to be expected would never be interfered with; and shall it ever be said that such rights have been transferred, to strangers. The concessions which have heretofore been made to the French, were sufficiently extensive and injurious; they have never been over scrupulous, as to boundaries prescribed, and have taken bait, where, by treaty they were strictly prohibited. How then any thing so injurious to British subjects, so destructive of Newfoundland interests, could be contemplated by ministers, is surprising; and still more extraordinary, that knowing the consequence, they could solemnly and secretly ratify such a convention.

But how do they attempt to justify this act, they speak of aggressions complained of by the French, but the aggressions have been on their side. Claims have been put forward by France that to prevent disturbances, which may possibly lead to war, our interests should be sacrificed to their advantage. If the French have claims which cannot be otherwise adjusted let them go to war, why should Newfoundland be injured for its prevention. For the sake of Turkey armies were equipped and war waged with a mighty Empire; and some domestic dispute in Naples called forth the interference, and the Fleets of England, then why should we be forced to accept conditions which would be unjust and ruinous to this dependency of the British Crown. We would sustain more permanent injury by the measures contemplated, than any which even war would bring upon us.

Our Governors have not failed in transmitting to the Home Government, the nature of our fishing privileges, and the impossibility of a satisfactory arrangement upon concurrent principles. (Mr. Ridley here read Extracts from Governors Hamilton and Darlings despatches and continued) The interferences which the French complain of have never been proved; and in this particular we have greater cause for complaint.

Mr. Laouchere could not have availed himself of the means of information thus placed within his reach, or he would never have become a party to an arrangement, which would deprive us of advantages hitherto deemed inalienable; and it cannot be too urgently insisted on, that those advantages are either divided, or transferred to the French; our Country must rapidly decline, and its principle means of support being withdrawn, the inhabitants will at no distant day leave the Land of their Birth, or their adoption to Strangers.

He begged to move the following Resolution
Resolved.—That no Considerations of International adjustment, or Diplomatic policy, would justify an alienation of the Rights and Privileges of any portion of Her Majesty's loyal and devoted Subjects.

This Resolution was cordially seconded by Mr. W. Donnelly.
The Hon. T. H. Ridley in moving the second Resolution said:—

In a question of such importance to the vital interests of this Country, it was the duty of all to come forward, and protest in the most solemn manner against the Proposed Convention being carried into effect, are you to be driven as strangers to look for a living elsewhere, or to remain in your own land, and continue to obtain by honest industry the fruits of your labour? This is the true state of the question, and who would be silent or indifferent upon such a momentous occasion.

The French Ministers had taken advantage, of the supineness of the British; and sought to secure our privileges for their own people; having already made the Banks of Newfoundland a nursery for their Seamen, they would now obtain possession of our best shore Fisheries; and thus in a short time be enabled to dispossess British subjects of the oldest dependency of the British Crown. It was unreasonable to suppose that the Government would ever consent to this injustice; and this country should never be so appropriated without resistance.

In the reign of George the third, after a sanguinary war with England, France succeeded in obtaining certain privileges upon our Coasts which have proved deeply injurious to our interests, those advantages on the part of the French have been increased from time to time, and now additional concessions are being made, which if confirmed, must prove destructive to British interest and ruinous to our Fisheries, but we contend that our rights cannot be thus made over to strangers; and we are determined by all possible means, to maintain them to the last. Without

furt or observation he would submit the following resolution.

Resolved.—That this meeting having heard with astonishment and alarm, that the vital interests of this ancient and loyal colony are being sacrificed by Imperial Authority for the sole advantage of a powerful Maritime Rival; feels constrained to urge its constituents, that the right of Newfoundland Fishermen are in their nature inviolable, founded as they are upon British Colonization, confirmed by Imperial Legislation, and supported by prescriptive right of the most indubitable character.

Capt. William Gorden said, that for half a century he had been engaged in the fisheries; and knew well the evils which had been sustained by the people of this Country, who never they had to do with the French; if they were allowed to fish on our grounds, it would be ruinous to us. It was an unfortunate thing for the Country, that the right was allowed the French to fish on our coasts at all; but if they are now to have the privilege of our fishing ground on Bell Isle, and the Labrador, our rooms and stages will soon be theirs; and nothing of value will be left in our possession. He trusted that this would not be allowed by those, who had the power to prevent it. He begged to second the Resolution.
Mr. Robert Walsh on moving the third Resolution said

Gentlemen
It devolves upon me to propose this Resolution, it is a very important one for your consideration, and the consideration of the Government. So much has been already said upon this subject, and by persons who understand it well, that it is not necessary I should detain you long, but there can be no question that the attempt of the British Ministry to divide our property with the French should be firmly resisted.

The rights of this country should not be thus made over; if this convention be confirmed, property in Newfoundland will not be worth 2s 6d. in the pound, it is difficult enough for many of the Inhabitants to live now, how will it be if their means are thus diminished. The French get 10s. Sterling bounty on their fish, and they find the same markets in the Mediterranean, the West Indies or in the States of America, let then the bounty be withdrawn and we may be able to compete with them, but even then; it would be unjust to make over our property to them; by so doing the Imperial Government will sacrifice the very interests they should most desire to preserve. The late Col. Secretary, Mr. Crowdy pointed out the evils which would arise, by yielding our privileges to the French; they can offer nothing like an equivalent for what they seek from us.

Resolved.—That the violation of principles which have been faithfully interpreted, and frequently urged upon the Imperial Government by successive Governors may, if persisted in, tend to alienate the affections, and shake the Loyalty of the Inhabitants of this Country, towards a Sovereign whose Representatives have invariably and strenuously recommended a widely different Course of Policy.

Mr. Thomas Green being called to second this Resolution said:—

Gentlemen
This Resolution has been so well spoken to by Mr. Walsh, that there is little for me, but to press its adoption upon you. The subject is well worth the consideration of the people of Newfoundland who are engaged in its fisheries, and not only those, but of every one no matter what his business or calling may be; from the wealthy merchant to the poorest labourer, the consequences of this convention must be injurious. The French having such facilities afforded them, in this country, will, on account of their bounty, be enabled to depreciate our Markets, so that fish will not realise more than 11 or 12s per quintal and then with the present price of provisions, what are the people to do, or what can the merchants do if the Cod Fishery is stopped, or if France takes possession and drives us from the Labrador. The Merchants now import largely and supply liberally, but how will it be then. If this great evil be persisted in, it will cause a revolution in the country.

He had much pleasure in seconding the Resolution.

[To be continued]

(To the Editor of the Conception-Bay Man.)

Sir
Your insertion in your next issue of the following report of the proceedings of an anti-Anglo-French-Fishery Convention-Meeting held yesterday in the Upper District of Harbour Grace, will much oblige

Yours respectfully,
C.

After the meeting was regularly constituted, an aged Englishman rose, and casting a sad look over his assembled neighbours read as follows:—

"Whereas we have heard with sorrow and dismay that a convention-conveying away from the people of this Colony, to the French some most valuable Fishing Privileges, has been signed by certain unEnglish Ministers:—
And Whereas the effect of said Convention

will be to increase our powerful back for years past, to its merchants from this doom, and from the Government We resolve

1 To address her to unship Labouchere—

2 To petition shield us from the tyranny and —

3 To assure the unyielding determination Constitutional event the perpetuity.

Resolutions to be passed. They rely on the an demonstrating France were far Britain. The able and un on the Fishery ment by Govern and Archibald: voice was drawn clamant which nitude. Symptom posed supineness ment now beg promptly suppre majority.

After one cheer their poor unfort sorrowfully to the 21 Feb.

Whilst we writ leaving port, to voyage, and we will reward their ceas.

After all that the contrary, the deal fishery; without the need high Prices of the ment, and the the prospects enough.

We have not of the sealers, b fish it in our next material differer this spring and l

A gloom has been occurrence which of which the Coroculars; additional public mind, by the HEROTIC CANTY to hope that those w port, will not be case calls loudly, sufferers, but some shape of generous COBO.

An Inquest: we day last, commen

H. W. Trappin at the Court H John Stark Esq. Keef was elected man Bodies, belie John Cady, of the Corbett Master alroline at Mr. Do of this place, and Trinity Bay, Fish bed at the house of place, Licensed Sp o'clock; Mr. John get up! and dont b House was on fire, windows, and some out of the back doo escaped with their whose bodies wer Ellen Foley, the was in the hurry le and perished. Joh safe himself to save got into her Bedr directly under the The Jury fatty inc brought in a—Verd Mr. Foley, and Jury that they blan House in bed on the sides the family, co 220 Sovereigns in the house, a nun picked up from the

It is appointe

Suddenly on Mon Carbonear Mr. Geo highly respected