

termination. The negotiations referred to were founded on the report of the Commissioners appointed in 1859, and it was explained in a Despatch from the late Duke of Newcastle, which shall be furnished to you, that the convention which was then proposed had not "for its object in any way to enlarge the territorial or maritime rights of France, or to abridge those of Newfoundland, but primarily, and almost exclusively, to provide a machinery capable of securing that the just rights of each party, under the existing Treaties, shall be respected by the other." His Grace further stated, that the comparatively unimportant clauses of the proposed convention which had not this object, contained provisions which would confer material advantages on some of the inhabitants of Newfoundland; and that he did not anticipate that they would be considered by the community of Newfoundland, any more than by Her Majesty's Government, either as injurious to their interests or as involving such modifications of their rights as was contemplated in Mr. Labouchere's Despatch, No 10, of 26th March, 1857.

I recommend you, therefore, to request Her Majesty's Government to resume these negotiations, of which the settlement would probably remove all obstruction to the effective development of the territorial resources of the Colony. It would be easy to specify such rights as the Colony is not prepared to relinquish, and, these being excluded from the negotiation, to leave Her Majesty's Government at liberty to complete the proposed agreement.

The importance can hardly be overrated of the prospect thus opened to us, and of which practical experiment has already demonstrated the value, of developing the mineral wealth of the Colony. Means of employment would then be afforded to numbers of the people who now are without any alternative on failure of the Fisheries. And we might hope, under such circumstances, that the revenue would be relieved from those constantly recurring drafts for Poor Relief, which have almost entirely paralyzed all effort for legitimate public improvements.

I appointed Commissioners for the purpose of carrying out the object which you had in view in your grant, to enable the representation of the industry and products of this Colony at the International Exhibition of Arts and Industry, to be held at Paris