

NEWFOUNDLAND.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

FINANCIAL CRISIS IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 1.

SIR F. H. EVANS M.P. to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received March 8, 1895.)

[Answered by No. 8.]

MY LORD,

23, Grosvenor Place, S.W., March 7, 1895.

I AM in receipt of a communication* from the Colonial Office in answer to my letter to your Lordship of the 25th ultimo,* and I must express my regret that Her Majesty's Government have not seen fit to render to Newfoundland the slightest aid in this moment of her grave and serious trouble—a trouble which, in my opinion, has been caused indirectly, but mainly, by the action of Her Majesty's Government.

I have advised the Government of Newfoundland of this refusal.

I think it right, however, to point out to Her Majesty's Government that the analogy between Newfoundland and the other Colonies of the Empire—to which reference is made in the reply which I have received to my request on behalf of the Newfoundland Government—is not one which can be seriously maintained. The Imperial Government would not readily have interfered in a Treaty of vital importance to the Australian Colonies as they did in the case of Newfoundland, or, if they had, and serious financial trouble had resulted, the Imperial Government would have had to bear the responsibility and their share of the cost, which they decline to do in the case of Newfoundland, which is infinitely less able to bear such a strain and where the rigour of the climate makes suffering so hard to bear.

With respect to the offer of Her Majesty's Government to meet the more pressing needs of the people by sending out a Commissioner to inquire and report on what assistance is absolutely necessary, I beg to mention that at this season of the year three weeks or a month may elapse before the arrival of such a Commissioner in St. John's, and that this cannot be unknown to Her Majesty's Government. Further, that if there were any real desire on the part of this Government to help the distress of the people of Newfoundland it would be more readily shown if they would instruct the Governor to tender immediate relief pending the arrival of the Commissioner, in case the Government of Newfoundland accept this offer of charity, when their request has met with such absolute refusal of all aid asked on behalf of the Colony.

I am, &c.,

FRANCIS EVANS,

Special Commissioner of the
Government of Newfoundland.

No. 2.

SIR TERENCE O'BRIEN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received March 8, 1895.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[Answered by No. 10.]

(Extract.)

Am requested to forward following:

My Ministers appreciate the careful consideration given by Her Majesty's Government to the application of the Special Commissioner, but, judging from your Despatch of 5th

* Nos. 21 and 22 in [H.C. 104] March 1895.