

proved by His Excellency, 1892.

eration a telegram Newfoundland, with

that they are composed of herrings, on proposed convention of Canadian

ons of the Bait Act as far as the Minister was adopted.

fishermen engaged in a communication Newfoundland that in ad been invariably the representatives

Newfoundland Legislature at such times as

in its first stage, modifications, did not fishermen.

Arrangement" as Newfoundland Legislature. This objection

of the Newfoundland-
* from the submitted for Her
and notice had practice.

on on the whole legislation would e French bounty dered fishing no

this date up to e representatives ch removed the such as are now 90, when the Act ing of the kind. Act to British adian fishermen ntrymen, a fact ated 27th April,

foundland coast been disastrous h fishermen and men in common

with our own are seriously affected by the bounty assisted rivalry of foreigners, and must in a corresponding degree be benefitted by our conservative legislation.

"The working clauses of the Act are such as local knowledge only could have wisely devised for its effective execution and I may observe that they were adopted mainly by their regard to the application to the limited number of our own people by whom it was thought the chief efforts might be made to infringe on its provisions."

The italics are those of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Sir Robert Thorburn in a communication of the same date to the Colonial Office, said:—

"No difficulty will arise in procuring the license required by the Act as it cannot be supposed that regulations will be imposed that will hamper the operations of our own fishermen in an equal if not greater degree than those of our neighbours."

It was not, as already stated, until the year 1890, when the Bait Act was first enforced against Canada, that the supply of bait to the French by Canadian fishermen was alleged as a justification of the course adopted by Newfoundland towards the Dominion.

In April of that year, the Honourable R. Bond, Colonial Secretary, writing to Mr. Cecil Fane, said that it was found impossible to enforce the bait Act if British ships not of Newfoundland were permitted to take supplies, which in many cases, find their way to St. Pierre, and under the circumstances, the Government had no alternative but to put all outside vessels on the same footing under the Bait Act.

The foregoing complaint, it will be observed is entirely general in its character, and there is not on record a single case of the violation of the Bait Act having been brought to the notice of the Canadian Government. The fear implied in the Colonial Secretary's letter should, however, have been dispelled by the intimation conveyed to the Newfoundland representatives of the willingness of the Dominion Government to frame legislation to prevent any violation of the Bait Act by Canadian vessels on condition that the privileges hitherto enjoyed by those vessels in common with those of Newfoundland was restored to them.

There is, it may be remarked, reason to believe that the colonists of Newfoundland carry on an extensive traffic in herrings procured at the Magdalen Islands and sold by them at St. Pierre at remunerative prices. On one occasion it was reported that a fleet of about sixty sail resisted the authorities to such an extent as to throw one man overboard in carrying bait from Fortune Bay to St. Pierre.

It is submitted that instances such as the above illustrate the source from which Newfoundland has reason to apprehend obstacles in the enforcement of the Bait Act, rather from Canadian fishermen, against whom specific charges have never been formulated, nor can a single instance be adduced in which the "early bait" required by the French has ever been supplied to them by Canadians with fish taken in Newfoundland waters.

It is moreover to be remembered that there is nothing to prevent United States fishing vessels which are permitted under the regulations of 1891 to obtain bait without license fee from resorting to the practice of supplying the French with bait.

In 1890, Mr. Bond assumed the position that it was necessary to put all outside vessels on the same footing to ensure the proper enforcement of the Bait Act. This necessity however was ignored in 1891, and while United States fishermen were accorded every facility for obtaining bait, Canada was not only prevented from procuring it, but by a strict interpretation of the term "bait fishes" the traffic of Canadian vessels in "frozen herring," whether for bait or for purposes of commerce, was prohibited.

The Government of Canada cannot but regret that the views expressed by Sir Robert Thorburn in his letter of 27th April, 1887, as to the desirability of British fishermen retaining control of the bait supply, appear not to be appreciated at present in Newfoundland. In that letter Sir Robert says:—

"The inference drawn by Sir G. W. des Voeux — * * that Canada would suffer from its disallowance, inasmuch as Americans and other foreign fishermen would continue to procure their bait supplies in Newfoundland waters, parti-