

the weakest of Her Majesty's North American Colonies, nor would the British people care to see their own children sacrificed to promote the interests of a foreign state.

While we duly appreciate the recognition in the Convention of our Constitutional right to the exercise of our free will on this important subject, we deem it our duty most respectfully to protest in the most solemn manner against any attempt to alienate any portion of our Fisheries, or our Soil, to any Foreign Power, without the consent of the Local Legislature. As our Fishery and Territorial rights constitute the basis of our Commerce and of our social and political existence, as they are our birth-right and the legal inheritance of our children, they naturally form the most legitimate objects of our solicitude in the constitutional management of our internal affairs. We feel, therefore, that we may with confidence appeal to you, and to the paramount power of the Imperial Parliament, for an approval of our conduct, and a confirmation of our resolution on this vital question.

In conclusion, while we deeply regret that we cannot coincide in the opinions contained in your Despatch, of the 16th January; we must repeat that we cannot, under any circumstances, assent to the terms of this Convention; and, we therefore earnestly entreat that the Imperial Government will take no steps to bring this Treaty into operation, but will permit the trifling fishing privileges that remain to us to continue unimpaired.

On Table.

*Ordered*—That the said Documents do lie upon the Table.

Notice for Committee of the Whole upon Fishery Resolutions.

The hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL gave notice that on to-morrow he will move the House into a Committee of the Whole to take into consideration the Resolutions and Addresses this day reported from the Select Committee on the subject of the Convention with France; and also that he will move that the Rules of the House be suspended respecting the same.

Documents from His Excellency the Governor.

The hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, presented to the House the following Documents:—

Despatch of Governor Darling, No. 26, to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell on the Fisheries, 8th July, 1855 :

Despatch to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, transmitting Address from the Council and Assembly,—Praying that no further Fishery Privileges be ceded to the French, and reply thereto of 5th May, 1856 :