

CANADA.

No. 9.

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The Foreign Office to the Colonial Office.

SIR,

Foreign Office, 18th November, 1870.

I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Kimberley, the accompanying copy of a Despatch from Sir Edward Thornton, and its enclosure, respecting the Canadian Fisheries.

No. 443.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

Enclosure in No. 9.

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(No. 443.)

MY LORD,

Washington, 1st November, 1870.

I have the honour to enclose a printed copy of a Petition to Congress which has been published in one of this morning's newspapers, and which has lately been circulated for signature through the New England States.

The petition sets forth the grievances which American fishermen conceive that they have a right to complain of, with respect to the conduct of the Canadian Authorities and of the Commanders of the vessels employed in the protection of the Canadian Fisheries. The Petition also recommends that certain measures should be adopted by the United States in retaliation for the treatment against which complaints are put forward.

The newspaper publishes at the same time and immediately following the petition an article from the Toronto "Globe," thus appearing to intimate that it does not entirely support the statements and proposals made in the petition.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. THORNTON.

"THE FISHERY TROUBLES—PETITION FOR NON-INTERCOURSE WITH CANADA—INDEMNITY
" DEMANDED FOR CAPTURED VESSELS.

" A petition, the full text of which we give below, has lately been circulated for signature round all the towns and villages in New England :

" ' To the Honourable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled : This
" ' memorial respectfully represents that, owing to the coercive principle adopted by the
" ' Dominion of Canada, whereby the Treaty of 1818 is made the basis of arbitrary laws
" ' and regulations, the fishing interests of the United States being the most vulnerable
" ' point, have been subjected to outrage, directed with a view to accomplish the following
" ' results: To obtain satisfaction for alleged Fenian raids. To force the United States
" ' to renew the Reciprocity Treaty. To drive American fishermen from their waters,
" ' thereby reducing the number of fishing vessels, weakening the marine power of the
" ' United States, and making a monopoly of the fishing business in the hands of the
" ' Canadians to supply our markets.

" ' To this end they have captured American fishing vessels, broken up their voyages,
" ' and confiscated their fares. They have declared absolute non-intercourse with the
" ' fishermen of the United States, refusing the right to buy stores or supplies at any of
" ' their ports—driving them from their harbours where they had sought shelter—refusing
" ' the landing or bonding of American fish or mackerel for export to the United States.
" ' They have seized mackerel saved from vessels wrecked on their coast, refused supplies
" ' to disabled vessels, and harassed the fishermen in a manner peculiar to British
" ' authority. Your Memorialists would therefore pray that a Non-Intercourse Act be
" ' passed, similar in its effects to that of Canada, whereby the same treatment may be
" ' applied to all vessels hailing from the British Provinces, as that suffered by American
" ' fishermen. Also for an Act prohibiting the importation of English or Canadian fish
" ' or mackerel, so long as American vessels are prohibited from taking fish or mackerel
" ' in so-called British waters. Also, that transportation in bond of merchandise for
" ' Canada through American territory be prohibited until Canada ports are opened for
" ' transportation in bond of American fish, mackerel, or other merchandise to and from
" ' the United States. Also, that the United States demand full and complete indemnity