feudal *regime* is best for them. There are in the country the elements of such a solution; but the Ethiopians need foreign support to prevent them from falling back into anarchy. Three princes, we have seen, are in a position to divide among them the spoils of the King of the Kings of Ethiopia—Menelek in the Shoa, Kassa in the Tigre, and Gobaze in the central region of Amhara. Left to themselves, they will not oppose against each other instead of coming to an understanding? The stranger only will profit by their divisions. It will not be England, nor indeed any other European nation, that will take their place. Two Mussulman populations—the Gallas to the South, the Turks to the North—covet these mountains. And history teaches us that the successes of the Mahometans, wheresoever they have triumphed, have not been advantageous either to the natives of the conquered countries or to European interests. It would be a matter of regret if the definitive result of the English campaign in Abyssinia only promoted the progress of Mahometanism in a country which has so long resisted it.

RECIPROCAL FREE TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

(REVISED AND CORRECTED.)

Charlottetown, 21st August, 1868.

At two o'clock this day, a number of influential gentlemen of this City and County assembled to consider the propriety of adopting measures to facilitate the re-establishment of Reciprocal Free Trade with the United States, in conformity with a Requisition, numerously and respectably signed, addressed to the High Sheriff of the County (the Hon. Francis Longworth) The latter gentleman, after reading the said requisition, and the notice of the meeting issued in conformity therewith, called upon the gentlemen present to organize the meeting by the appointment of a Chairman and Secretary.

It was thereupon moved by the Hon. Joseph Hensley, Attorney General, seconded by the Hon. E. Palmer,—

"That the High Sheriff of the County be requested to preside."

The High Sheriff having signified his willingness to act as Chairman of the meeting, the motion was agreed to *nem. con.*

J. Barrett Cooper, Esq., was then unanimously appointed Secretary.

The heavy rain of the previous night, and the still unsettled state of the weather, having prevented the attendance of a number of persons resident in the country districts, who would, in all probability, have been present had the day been favorable, it was at first proposed to adjourn the meeting one week, with the view of securing a larger representation from all parts of the County. It was, however, ultimately decided that, although the meeting was not so well attended as could be wished, it was inexpedient to adopt the course suggested.

Archibald McNeill, Esq., moved, seconded by David Laird, Esq.,—

"That our delegates to the late Portland Convention, now present, be respectfully invited to address the meeting on the various subjects deliberated upon by that large and influential body."

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY (seeing Mr. Bourke and several other gentlemen, whose names were appended to the Requisition, present) thought the gentlemen who were mainly instrumental in getting up the present meeting, and who were doubtless prepared with a series of Resolutions embodying their views on the subject of Reciprocal Free Trade with the United States, should be called upon, in the first instance, to address the meeting and submit their Resolutions.

The Chairman approved of the course suggested by Mr. Hensley.

The Hon. Mr. PALMER remarked that were that course strictly adhered to in all cases, few would be found willing to sign a Requisition for a public meeting. The subject that would engage their attention on that occasion, it is well known, was Reciprocal Free Trade with the United States; and as the Delegates from the Island to the recent Portland Convention, where, in all probability, this subject was fully discussed, were present, he would, with due submission to the Chair, suggest that the said Delegates be first heard, and then that a Committee be appointed to draw up Resolutions, to be submitted to, and adopted or rejected by the general meeting.

F. BRECKEN, Esq., said this was a meeting of the inhabitants of the County, called for the purpose of discussing the question of Free Trade with the United States. The Delegates (of whom he was one) were, it was true, in a certain sense, the servants of the public; but they were appointed by the Chamber of Commerce—not by this meeting. The more regular course, therefore, would be that suggested by Mr. Hensley, viz: to submit the Resolutions alluded to; after which, the Delegates would, he felt assured, cheerfully give the meeting all the information in their power respecting the proceedings of the recent Convention. The feeling of the Convention, he would just say here, was, with one solitary exception, in favor of a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty; but he still thought that it would be more regular, before proceeding farther, for the gentlemen who had originated the present meeting to submit their Resolutions.

The Hon. GEORGE BEER thought the Delegates sent to the Portland Convention by the Chamber of Commerce should address the meeting first; but complained of the difficulty of hearing, experienced by the audience, which was now pretty large, in consequence of the bad construction of the room in which they were assembled.

It being quite evident that a large majority of the meeting were desirous that the Delegates should be first heard;

WILLIAM HEARD, Esquire, one of the delegates, was called on to address the meeting, and was tolerably well heard, although the defect complained of by Mr. Beer rendered the attempt a matter of some difficulty both to speaker and hearers. Mr. Heard regarded the mission of the delegates as one of great importance to all classes of the people of this Island. Had no delegates been sent to the Convention alluded to, it would naturally be inferred that we, as a people, were totally indifferent to those great and important interests which would engage the attention of that large and influential assembly. We were also aware that a Resolution of a deeply interesting character had been recently submitted to the American Congress by General Butler, on the subject of Free Trade with this Island,—a circumstance, of itself, sufficiently significant and suggestive to warrant the steps that had been taken by both the Chamber of Commerce and the Government of this Island. The reception of the Delegates at Portland was very gratifying. All were placed on a footing of perfect equality, and the Americans were anxious that their Provincial brethren should act upon Committees, and share fully with themselves in all the business of the Convention. The latter, however, after consulting together as to the course they should pursue, informed their American friends that they had attended the Convention simply to get and to communicate information, and must, therefore, decline acting upon any Committee, or in any way taking an active part in the business of the Convention. This determination seemed to produce rather a bad feeling at first, but it soon wore off, and the Americans admitted that they had pursued the wisest and best course. The Convention originated, it appeared, in a desire to extend the commerce of the United States with the adjoining Colonies. At first sight, the Provincial Delegates were induced to think that a special line of Railway to connect Portland with the West,—more direct than existing lines,—was the chief object in view; but on the appearance of the Resolutions in favor of a new Treaty with the Colonies, based on Reciprocity, the drift of the Convention was at once apparent. We had, therefore, no ground of complaint for the manner in which the Convention was assembled or conducted. The difficulties experienced by the Western States in exporting their vast agricultural productions to the seaboard were not easily described; and as to the expense, it costs them *only* two bushels for the transport of one. No wonder that the Western States were loudly demanding a more rapid and less costly mode of conveyance! The best channel of communication with the Atlantic was, undoubtedly, through the Lakes by the St. Lawrence. This must ultimately become the chief mode of transport for the West. At the Detriot Convention, the Western representatives were strongly opposed to the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty for two reasons: First, on account of the apparent friendly feeling manifested for the Southern States in the late war; and, next, because the Eastern States had grown rich at the expense of the Western, and they had manifested a desire for the continuance of the Treaty. Mr. Heard was, however, happy to say that the opinion of Western statesmen had undergone a great change, and they were now in favor of a thoroughly fair Reciprocity Treaty with the Provinces of British America—not a one-sided one like the late Treaty; but one which would satisfy all parties, including a registry for our shipping in American ports and a participation in the coasting trade of the United States. One of the gentlemen who advocated these liberal views, was a Mr. Taylor, of Minnesota. He was of opinion that the shipping as well as the agricultural interests should be consulted when framing a new Treaty, and Mr. Taylor proposed to pacify the ship-building interests of the United States by admitting their raw material duty free, and thus put them on a par with Colonial builders. Our shipping, fishing, and agricultural interests were so mixed up and blended together, that the only way for the country to prosper long was to conserve each of these interests, and all would prosper together. Two great objects, however—Railways and Navigation—were steadily kept in view by the Convention, and the resolutions relative to these passed unanimously. The great struggle took place on the subject of Reciprocity. It was, at first, thought that that, too, would have passed without any serious opposition; but, to the astonishment of every one, a Mr. Prentiss, of Bangor, Me., strongly and resolutley opposed every movement in that direction. He represented the lumber interests of Maine. As a matter of course, the lumber that came over the lines free of duty crippled the lumbermen of that State. His great argument was, that because working men in Italy fed on bread and water, getting ten cents a day for their labor, it was therefore impossible that the well-fed and well-paid lumbermen of Maine could, by any possibility, compete with miserable, half-starved wretches engaged in the same occupation in Canada and New Brunswick. As a clencher, we presume, he told his hearers that as soon as the late Treaty expired, the lumber trade of Maine revived, the lumbermen were now doing a first-rate business, and consequently did not wish the present arrangement destroyed. The arguments—if such they can be called—of this Mr Prentiss were, however, easily and triumphantly refuted. He was answered by two gentlemen, one of whom (Mr. Derby) will probably be here in a few days with Gen. Butler, and so completely was he floored, that he forgot to vote "nay" when the question was put, and the Resolution in favor of Reciprocity was carried unanimously. Gen. Butler's scheme was one of a peculiar character. He professed to treat with P. E. Island as a separate and distinct power, and our local Government will, therefore, have to take the matter in hand immediately. This question was not mentioned at the Convention, and he (Mr. Heard) doubted if one of the American Delegates was aware that this Island formed no part of the Dominion of Canada, and that it was, at present, perfectly independent of that country. It was chiefly, he said, in connection with our fisheries that this Island was known to the Americans, most of whom appeared to be well aware of their vast importance. Mr. Heard here complained that, with reference to postal matters, this Island had not been fairly dealt with, and called upon the proper authorities to see that this Island was placed on the same footing as Canada.

Mr. Heard here mentioned one or two striking instances that had recently been brought to his notice by Mr. Hall, clearly proving that our fisheries were immensely productive and far more valuable than many amongst ourselves were wont to suppose. A man, he assured the meeting, could sometimes, in a boat, with two men, get more for one day's fishing on our coasts than he could for any five acres of oats he could raise. These fisheries, he continued, had, on more than one occasion, almost led to a war between Great Britain and the United States; and it was the dread inspired by such a contingency which, perhaps more than anything else, led to the desire to have the matter forever set at rest. The British Government had laid it down as a rule that a line should be drawn from headland to headland, and that the American fishermen should not be permitted to fish within three miles of that line. This interpretation of the Treaty once applied to the waters of the Bay of Fundy as well as to other bays on our coast, but had latterly not been insisted on. With respect to the former, (and the old rule, he believed, still applied to the Bay Chaleur and to our own Bays,) Captain Clarke had informed him (Mr. H.) that his vessel had been lately boarded by an officer of H. M. Navy in the Bay Chaleur, who asked for his papers, etc. Captain Clarke asked this officer if they (the Americans) were to be driven out of the Bay, and was told that so long as they kept three miles from the shore they were perfectly safe. If this arrangement had been authoritatively made, and was also applicable to the Bays of this Island, the change had been effected without our knowledge or consent. Mr. Heard then advised the people of this Colony to look at the question broadly and fairly. "If," said he, "you lose the opportunity now presented, you will never, probably, have a better one to secure your rights. If you are content with a small boon in exchange for Free Trade and Fisheries, you will find your last chance gone for securing any permanent benefit at the hands of the United States. There can be no wisdom in the advice given by some, to take part if you cannot get all. If you wish to come out right and square, put on a good face, and drive as good a bargain as you can while the opportunity offers." One remark, by way of closing, was made by Mr. Heard in reference to the importance of encouraging travellers to make this Island their summer's resort. Was it not better to get customers to come here than to send our productions away for sale? What are the facts? Up to the present hour we were driving away hundreds of the best customers from our doors, because we did not or would not provide suitable accommodation for them, and thus we are losing a mine of wealth second only to the fisheries, for want of a little enterprise. L. C. Carvell, Esq., told him recently that inquiries were being put to him daily by persons in the States, who had heard of our delightful climate, pure, bracing air, splendid agricultural country, etc., and who would flock by hundreds to our shores and spend the hot summer months here, had we only suitable hotel accommodation for them; and, addressing the many gentlemen farmers present who had "made their pile," Mr. H. endeavored to impress upon their minds that their responsibility did not terminate with their attendance upon such meetings as the present. He reminded them that a number of Charlottetown gentlemen had put their hands in their pockets, and liberally subscribed towards the erection of a suitable Hotel for the special accommodation of the strangers just alluded to, and whose visits could not fail largely to contribute to the general prosperity of our beautiful Island. "Let the farmers now see to it," said Mr. H., in concluding his very excellent, though, we fear, imperfectly reported address, "that they have the interests of P. E. Island at heart; let them come forward and take shares in the proposed hotel, and they would, he undertook to say, get more interest for their money than many of them appeared to have any idea of."

FREDERICK BRECKEN, Esq., said that the duty devolving upon him would be very light, after the very full and comprehensive statement just made by his co-delegate, Mr. Heard,—a practical man in commercial matters, and much better qualified to address the meeting on matters of trade and commerce than he was. He (Mr. B.) was happy to be able to state that within the last three years a great change had taken place in the American mind with reference to the question of Reciprocity. At the Detroit Convention, which he attended, a very unfriendly feeling towards the British Provinces was exhibited. The general feling there was, that as the Mother Country and her Colonies had, by the sympathy which they had shown for the South during the late civil war, conduced to protract that struggle and make it more bloody and costly than it would otherwise have been, they (the Americans) were not disposed to continue liberal trade relations with us. But that unfriendly feeling, he was glad to say, was fast disappearing. Taking the views of the Portland Convention as an indication of the general opinion of the American people, he would say there was every prospect of a Reciprocity Treaty being entered into. At the Convention at Portland, only one delegate was found in opposition to Reciprocity, a Mr. Prentiss, from Bangor, Maine. His duty appeared to be, to protect the lumber interest of that State. His address occupied about an hour. He candidly owned that he did not think there was one delegate present who sympathised with him. He urged many reasons or rather objections, why Reciprocal Free Trade should not be revived with the Provinces. Among others, that labor was dearer in the States than in the Colonies; that on that ground the American lumberer could not contend with the Colonial; that Reciprocity with these Colonies would interfere with the Treaties entered into by the United States with other countries by which it was stipulated that those countries should enjoy all the commercial advantages and privileges conceded to the most favored nation; that, indeed, to make any distinction would amount to a breach of faith on the part of the American people. Another objection was that the lumberers in the Provinces could obtain licenses from their Governments for a mere trifle, to cut as much lumber as they required, while the United States Government, never having reserved Government lands, the American citizens were compelled to purchase the lands over which they cut. Another argument was that while their currency remained in its present depreciated state, they could not expect successfully to compete with other countries. The colonial delegates did not take an active part in the deliberations of the Convention; they thought it better, from motives of delicacy, not to act on any of the Committees. Indeed, the delegates from this Island were so hurried that they had no time to collect statistics. For the information they were able to take with them, scanty as it was, they were indebted to I. C. Hall, Esq., and two or three other gentlemen. The immediate object of the Convention appeared to be, to further certain railroad projects. Railway communication, and the improvement of River, Lake, and Canal navigation, engrossed the greater part of the time of the Convention, and seemed to be regarded as of greater importance at the present time than Reciprocity. He (Mr. B.) could not but admire the courage with which the Americans approached large undertakings. A great public work was no sooner spoken of than it was at once commenced. They seemed to think as lightly of building a trans-continental line of railway as we did of building a steam ferry-boat. The battle of Free Trade was being fought between the Eastern and Western men. The latter contended for Free Trade, giving to foreigners the right of registering their ships in American Ports, while the former shrunk from conceding these privileges. Looking at the vast extent of the Western States, their resources, the vast tide of immigration that was flowing in there, and their capabilities of further developement, there could be no doubt that the policy of the West would, at no distant time, become the policy of the United States. The coasting trade and the registry of colonial vessels appeared to be thought more of in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick than with us. Here the great interest was in the grain and produce trade and the fisheries. Gen. Butler's resolutions were not alluded to at the Convention. He was expected here in a few days, and he (Mr B.) had no doubt the Government would be prepared with such statistics and information as might be required to enable Mr. Butler and the other members of the Congressional Committee who accompany him, to understand the true position of this question. Gen. Butler was what the Americans called a strong man in the Eastern States and would, no doubt, exercise considerable influence when Reciprocity came to be dealt with in Congress. We could not over-restimate the value of our fisheries. Our agricultural produce would always secure us a competency; but if we were ever to become wealthy that wealth must be drawn from the fisheries that surround our coast. It was the duty of the people of this Island generally to take an interest in this matter, and for them to do all in their power to secure a Treaty on as favorable terms as possible.

The Hon. A. A. McDONALD corroborated the statements just made by Mr. Heard. Mr. Brecken had, no doubt, also given the meeting a fair account of the proceedings of the Portland Convention, although, unfortunately, he had been unable to hear it. He thought the time had now arrived when the business for which the meeting had been convened should be proceeded with.

On motion of the Hon. George Beer, the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee, to prepare and report a series of Resolutions on the subject of Reciprocity, etc., to be submitted to the meeting presently, for consideration and approval, viz: Hon. George Beer, David Laird, Esq., Henry Haszard, Esq., Hon. E. Palmer, and Edward Reilly, Esq.

The Committee retired to prepare their Resolutions.

The Hon. JAMES WARBURTON, Colonial Treasurer, then rose and stated that he had been engaged for the last four or five months collecting Statistics. From these it would appear that, in 1848, nine thousand barrels of flour were imported into this Island and in 1866, the quantity imported amounted to eighty-one thousand barrels! When it was recollected that nearly all the flour consumed was formerly raised in the Colony, it would at once be seen what a serious drain this item alone made upon its resources, and there could, he thought, be no doubt on the minds of any that some trade must be found to meet this large and continually increasing importation. That trade was fish. Not many years since, we actually imported large quantities of fish, although our own waters were teeming with them. He recollected a remark made by Sir A. Bannerman on one occasion, viz: that "in order to get Free Trade, he would allow the Americans to fish everywhere," and he (Mr. W.) was of the same opinion. In 1866, we exported about two and a half millions of bushels of oats! This item alone was important, as showing the magnitude of our agricultural exports. If Gen. Butler, on his arrival here, should find that reliable statistics could not be obtained, it would reflect but little credit on those who had so persistently refused to make any provision for their preparation; and he hoped that, even at the last hour, an officer would be appointed to furnish the statistics now so imperatively demanded.

I. C. Hall, Esq., on being called upon, said it would have given him some pleasure, had he seen the Resolutions to be submitted to the meeting, to have made a few observations thereon. As they had called upon him, however, at that stage of the proceedings, he would endeavor to say a few words. At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, held the previous evening, the whole question of Reciprocity was fully debated. At that meeting they went for free trade in fish and free trade for produce. Mr. Taylor and other Western men would go for these; and he had no doubt that the registration of English vessels, as well as the coasting trade, would follow. In the meantime, the Western men wanted all the channels to the ocean opened,—they desired all the facilities for trade that could be provided. They wanted all this; but he hoped the people of this Island would not commit the mistake of saying, if they could not get all these at once, that they would have none of them. Mr. Hall thought the time had not yet arrived to press home all these questions. How many were interested in the question of free navigation? Probably not one in five hundred. But the farmer could not afford to lose a market for his produce, nor the fisherman for his fish. "If you do so," said Mr. Hall, "you will assuredly fail." This must be looked upon as a practical question. We could obtain a free market for our fish and agricultural productions. He (Mr. H.) thought the people of this Island greatly undervalued their fisheries. No other business that could be named had succeeded so well. In order to show their great value, Mr. Hall stated that four or five hands, aided by a few boats, had not unfrequently been known to take thirty or forty pounds' worth of mackerel in a single day. A man and his boy, at Miminegash, took in one day thirty thirty pounds' worth of the same description of fish. He himself landed, at one of his stages, in a single day, 55,000 mackerel, or six hundred pounds' worth. The business, if properly followed, was as sure of success as any other business. The entire catch of mackerel at present only amounted to from 300,000 to 400,000 barrels annually, and the United States would consume double that quantity. We had the timber to build the vessels required to prosecute this fishery, and we had the men to man them. This was a great question, and Mr. Hall saw clearly that unless our young men found something else to do besides farming, we could never be a wealthy people. This we could never be from the mere productions of the soil. We must create a home market for all the pork we could raise, and secure the best market for our fish. If P. E. Island could enlist the capital and skill necessary for the successful prosecution of this business, she would not only vastly increase the value of her exports, but the value of her lands also; and her young men, instead of going off to build up the towns and cities of the United States, would return to the Island and build a fleet of as fine, good looking, and fast sailing vessels as could be produced in the States. These vessels could be constructed here for two-thirds of the money they would cost in Essex. Some gentlemen appeared very anxious to see free trade in vessels and the coasting trade insisted upon as one of the stipulations of the new arrangement. This, Mr. Hall did not deem advisable at present. Reciprocity in fish and agricultural productions would soon settle all that.

The Hon. George Beer, from the committee appointed to prepare and report Resolutions for the consideration of the meeting, reported three Resolutions; and the same were read by the Secretary as follows:

WHEREAS, the subjects of Reciprocal Free Trade between the United States of America and the British North American Colonies, have been recently discussed at Portland, in the State of Maine, at a Convention of Delegates representing the principal commercial interests of the said States and Colonies; and *whereas*, there have been lately submitted to the United States Congress, by an influential member thereof, certain Resolutions containing a proposition for the establishment of reciprocal Free Trade with Prince Edward Island in certain productions of both countries, including fish, and for the modification of the present regulations for granting licenses to American fishermen to fish on the shores of this Island, which resolutions are likely to be entertained with favorable consideration by the American Congress and Government: and *whereas*, there appears to be an almost universal desire, as enunciated at the said Portland Convention, for the establishment of reciprocal Free Trade between the United States and the North American Colonies; and *whereas* the Treaty respecting Free Trade, and the extension of the Fishery rights, entered into between Her Majesty the Queen and the United States of America, on the 5th June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, proved to be of great advantage to the people of this Colony.

Resolved therefore, that the re-establishment of Reciprocal Free Trade between the British North American Colonies and the United States of America upon a similar but more extended basis, with respect to enumerated articles, and also a similar extension of the Fishery rights, more especially if connected with the rights of registration and the coasting trade for our vessels in the United States, would be to the mutual advantage of both countries.

Resolved, That the conditions of extending to the fishermen of the United States, the right of fishing within three miles of the shores of this Island, and the privilege of access to the ports and harbors thereof ought to be such conditions as shall be prescribed and fixed by the Government and Legislature of this Colony, in all respects, so far as the same shall not be opposed to any existing constitutional principle of the Laws of the United Kingdom.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this meeting do furnish to the several members of the Legislature representing Queen's County and Charlottetown a copy of the Resolutions passed at this meeting, and respectfully request them to give the subject their cordial support in the Legislature in order to obtain the object and wishes of this meeting as understood by the said resolutions.

The first of the said Resolutions being again read by the Chairman,—

The Hon. Mr. PALMER said he had heard it remarked, that it was not good policy to declare, by Resolution or otherwise, exactly what we wished for. The sooner we did so, however, the more likely we were to obtain what we want. We all know that Free Trade had made us what we were. Our Agricultural interests had been especially benefited thereby. The United States were a good market for our grain, and that was precisely what our farmers want. Our farmers, he was glad to observe, were taking to their pursuit with a zeal and energy highly commendable, and all that was now required was a good and permanent market for our produce. It was all very well to say, that we now have a good market for our oats in Great Britain; but that market was a very uncertain one, and could only be taken advantage of by large capitalists. (Hear.) He would like to see our farmers club together, and ship off their own produce. We were now annually building wharfs and breakwaters, dredging our harbors, improving our roads, etc., to afford greater facilities for carrying on trade. These improvements increase the demand for markets; but he would not take up the time of the meeting by descanting upon these. The present meeting had been called for the purpose of obtaining Free Trade, and as to the desirableness of this, all were agreed. What were the best means of obtaining it? Some persons seem to think the attempt hopeless, unless the same privilege were conceded to the whole of the North American Provinces. He (Mr. Palmer) was not of that opinion. If the Island showed its determination to have Free Trade, and manifested this determination by corresponding acts on the part of its Legislature, Addresses to the Crown, etc., it would, he thought, be conceded. He knew that objections had been raised to the course they were now pursuing with reference to this matter. The Dominion would have to state the terms and conditions upon which she would accept of Free Trade; and he hoped that any conditions or stipulations she might enter into with the American Government would conduce to the interest of P. E. Island. He thought it probable, however, that Canada might insist upon terms that would not be acceded to, but might, nevertheless, be given to us for the privilege of fishing round our shores. If the British Government saw there was nothing unreasonable in our demands, those demands would be granted. They had taken their stand at various periods in our past history, and refused us many of our rights, but these rights had at last been conceded. We were as yet a sole and independent Colony,—as much so as Canada, and had as good a right to be treated as such as Jamaica or Australia. Free Trade, if we wished it, could not be denied us simply because we were a small Colony. The British Government were bound to concede to us that which was manifestly for our benefit, and not unconstitutional. We could not, it was true, pass an Act to prevent the running at large of geese at Summerside, without the permission of the Home Government; but if it could not be shown that such an Act was in opposition to any existing constitutional rule of Great Britain, it must, as a matter of course, be assented to. He (Mr. P.) did not despair, therefore, of obtaining Free Trade for this Colony, even should the terms not at first be approved of in the Mother Country. P. E. Island would have been in Confederation long ago had we not shown unmistakably our opposition to it. The Parent Country, it was true, had the proper and constitutional right of controlling the fisheries; but if we could show that the waters within three miles of our coasts were legally within our jurisdiction, and that the conditions upon which we proposed to permit the Americans to fish within these waters would not deprive any British subject of a single constitutional right, any arrangements we might choose to make with respect to our fisheries ought not to be interfered with. It would, perhaps, be objected, were that right conceded to P. E. Island, that it would dirturb existing Treaties, with which we, as a Colony, had no right to meddle. But that should not stop us. Let us pass our Act,—not stop short for fear such a measure would not be assented to at the Colonial Office. How many measures had they passed there that had previously been pronounced unconstitutional? He (Mr. P.) had prepared some statistics bearing on the question, but as much time of the meeting had now been spent, he would not further weary its attention by presenting them. The Resolution just submitted would show what we really wanted.

The Hon. Mr. HENSLEY, Attorney General, without pledging himself to all the details of the Resolutions just submitted, would say that the Government had already had the subject under consideration. It was a question, indeed, upon which there could be no difference of opinion. There was no necessity, he thought, for delay,—we were quite at liberty, if it pleased us to do so, to take the initiative in a matter of this nature. The present meeting had been convened to consider a proposition coming to us from the Congress of the United States. He (Mr. H.) did not think there was any difficulty in the way but one. With respect to Reciprocity, there could be none; and with respect to the only question that remained, (although that was a matter about which some difficulty might arise) he agreed with his learned friend (Mr. Palmer) in thinking that was no reason why we should not bring the matter at once under the notice of the Imperial authorities. If any country in the world was entitled to exceptional legislation, this Island was that country. They had taken away our lands, and in that respect had placed us in a most unenviable position. It was thought by some that England would not permit this Island to deal with this question; but he felt himself permitted to state, that the local Government had already taken that matter in hand. The action of the United States was not likely to be perfected this Autumn, as it was now pretty well understood that Congress would not meet until December. In the meantime, the opinion of the Home Government on the whole question would become known to our people. He (Mr. H.) had no hesitation in saying that the terms embodied in the Resolution before them would be highly advantageous to this Island, and he thought he was expressing not only his own views, but those of his colleagues also when he assured the meeting, that no efforts should be wanting on their part likely to effect the objects embodied in that Resolution. Responsible Government was now in operation in this Island,—although the Home Government would not at first consent to its introduction,—and the Colonies of Great Britain would, in future, be believed, be not only allowed by the Parent State to govern themselves in that way and manner best suited to their condition, but also to exercise unrestricted control over all their resources. Sir John A. McDonald, during his recent brief stay amongst us, had assured him (Mr. H.) that the Dominion Government had no desire whatever to thwart this Island in her endeavors to obtain as good terms as possible from the American Government, in exchange for our valuable fisheries; but, at the same time, expressed the hope, that the day was not far distant when the Provinces, generally, would secure an advantageous treaty.

The Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE also spoke in support of the Resolution. The great want in the United States at the present time appeared to be shipping. Their great object was, to replace the ships they had lost during the late war in that country. When in the Mediterranean, several years since, he (Mr. H.) frequently saw the flags of England and America floating side by side; but that state of things, he had heard, was now greatly altered. British-built ships still maintain their superiority. British-built A 1 ships always got the best freights. Perhaps, however, it was wrong in him to speak about shipping, which he was not so well acquainted with as he was with farming. During the Corn Law agitation in England, the great landlords there, conceiving that they would be ruined were its advocates successful, used every exertion to render their efforts nugatory. What was the result? Instead of proving ruinous to their interests, their farms were better conducted, the men themselves more refined, and the laborers more prosperous and contented,—all the direct results of Free Trade in corn. He (Mr. Haythorne) conceived that Reciprocity would do the same thing for these Colonies. Free Trade enabled Britain to come through the crisis of the Crimean War, and to weather the difficulty raised by the cotton famine; and just such results of a similar policy might be anticipated here also. The prices of agricultural produce were so low now as to render the occupation of the farmer not very desirable, but there was a better time coming for the farmers of P. E. Island. He (Mr. H.) had spent the best part of his days as a farmer, and felt that he had hitherto been but poorly remunerated for his toil. He knew it was very difficult to realize cash for the best lands at present, but he hoped the farmers of this Island were now about to reap similar advantages from Free Trade to those realized from it elsewhere. The Hon. Mr. Palmer seemed to think that Reciprocity would only be offered to P. E. Island; but to show that this was not likely to be the case, Mr. Haythorne here read the following extract from the Boston *Advertiser* of the 29th ultimo:—

"The Committee on ways and means agreed upon a report on the question of trade with the British Provinces, the presentation of which was prevented by the fillibustering on the copper tariff bill. The report recommends the opening of negotiations with the British Government, to ascertain what concessions Great Britain will make for the liberalization of the treaties between Canada and the United States, and which will cover all matters of commerce, navigation, and the fisheries. Mr. Seward informed the committee that he would consider the report ample authority to open negotiations."

Mr. Haythorne conceived that this would be a much more favorable result than Reciprocity with P. E. Island alone.

The Hon. Mr. COLES had the honor, some years since, to have taken an active part in the matter of Reciprocity with the United States. The terms of a Treaty were agreed to by Great Britain and the United States, and afterwards submitted to the respective Colonial Legislatures. This Island took the initiative. A special Session of the Legislature was convened,—the terms of the Treaty were approved of, and they all knew the advantage that had resulted therefrom. They all knew also that it was the people of the United States who abrogated that Treaty, and they now saw that its provisions were quite as advantageous to them as they were to us. He (Mr. Coles) concurred in the sentiments expressed on this subject by the Hon. Leader of the Government (Mr. Hensley) and the Hon. Mr. Haythorne. The members of the Legislature might object to the wording of the Resolution before them; but he (Mr. Coles) believed that in the main its principles would be approved of. Allusion was made therein to the coasting trade and a registry for our shipping,—points on which the Americans were very sensitive. One of these points he (Mr. Coles) formerly wished to insist upon; but he found that the shipbuilding interest was so strong at that time in the United States that he was reluctantly compelled to yield the point. A treaty that did not include all those stipulations would undoubtedly be beneficial; but any Government that wished to frame a new Treaty with special reference to the benefit or advantage of any one class of the community would not, he thought, act wisely. He (Mr. Coles) recollected that at the time the British Government removed the protective duties on timber, the merchants of New Brunswick became outrageous, and threatened to join the United States; and it was this circumstance that first induced him to direct his attention to the coasting trade. He (Mr. Coles) duly appreciated the difficulties under which our fishery men labored at present, in consequence of the high duty imposed upon our mackerel by the Americans; but Mr. Hall would, he thought, admit that it was useless to seek the abrogation of those duties unless we were prepared to give some equivalent in exchange therefor. On this point the Americans were very firm. The number of men-of-war now on the station might have been the means of calling the attention of the Americans to this subject more decidedly than anything else could have done; and he hoped the principles embodied in the Resolution would soon be carried out. He (Mr. Coles) was pleased to learn from the delegates that Reciprocity was viewed with much greater favor at the Portland Convention than it was at the Detroit Convention, a few years since, and which he had himself attended as one of the delegation for this Island.

DAVID LAIRD, Esquire, was of opinion that this Island ought to be placed on the same footing as the Americans, with reference to the coasting trade; and though this was a concession from them which we might not obtain, yet, as it was our right, we ought to contend for it.

HENRY HASZARD, Esquire, thought that if we gave away what we now had, we would not in all probability obtain the privilege alluded to at any future period. He thought also that, small as this Island was, we had more to offer, in exchange for the privileges asked for, than all the other Colonies put together.

The Resolution was then put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

The second Resolution reported from the Committee was again read by the Chairman, and—after a pretty lenthy discussion—adopted unanimously as follows:

Resolved that the conditions of extending to the fishermen of the United States the right of fishing within three miles of the shores of this Island and the privilege of access to the ports and harbors thereof, ought to be such conditions as shall be prescribed and fixed by the Government and Legislature of this Colony, in all respects, so far as the same shall not be opposed to any existing constitutional principle of the Laws of the United Kingdom.

This Resolution was ably spoken to by Messrs. Heard, Palmer, Beer, Laird, Archibald McNeill, and J. Longworth. The writer, however, having been unexpectedly called upon to act in the double capacity of Secretary and Reporter, found himself unable, at this stage of the proceedings, from the scantiness of his writing materials, to take any further notes of the speeches.

The third Resolution was also agreed to unanimously, and is as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of this meeting do furnish to the several members of the Legislature representing Queen's County and Charlottetown, a copy of the Reso