

No. 28.

Mr. Ford to the Earl of Derby—(Received August 14.)

My Lord,

Halifax, August 2, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Halifax Commission resumed its sittings on Saturday, the 28th ultimo.

The first meeting after the adjournment was confined to reading the Minutes and other matters of a formal character.

On Monday, the 30th, the British Case was opened by reading the "Case of Her Britannic Majesty's Government," the "Answer of the United States," and the "Reply on behalf of Great Britain."

The documents alluded to in the British Case, which had been filed with the Secretary, were also read; and I have the honour to forward herewith copies of a reprint of the extracts and portions relied on, which has been arranged by Mr. Bergne for the use of the Commission and for preservation in the archives.*

The Commission then proceeded to take evidence in support of the British Case, and I propose to send your Lordship copies of the short-hand writers' notes occasionally, when they may be collected in a convenient form for transmission home. These notes will be certified in duplicate by the reporters taking the same, and will form part of the records of the Commission.

I should add that Mr. Richard H. Dana, jun., of Boston, and Mr. W. H. Trescott, of Washington, have been named as Counsel on behalf of the United States, in addition to Mr. Foster, and these gentlemen are now in daily attendance at the sittings. Mr. Alfred Foster, of Boston, Mr. J. S. D. Thompson, of Halifax, and Mr. H. A. Blood, of Washington, attend the Commission to perform such duties as may be assigned to them on the United States' side.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 29.

Mr. Herbert to Mr. Lister.—(Received August 18.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 17, 1877.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Mr. Ford, with a copy of the Reply to the Answer of the United States, which he has delivered to the Secretary of the Halifax Fishery Commission, and reporting his views with regard to the Brief on the Headlands question which he is drawing up, and which he is anxious to lay before the Commissioners as soon as possible.

Lord Carnarvon desires me to request that you will state to the Earl of Derby that, subject to the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, who appear to have been consulted on these papers, his Lordship concurs generally in the course taken by Mr. Ford and in the views expressed in his despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 30.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Ford.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 31, 1877.

I HAVE had under my consideration, in communication with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Law Officers of the Crown, your despatch of the 26th ultimo, inclosing a copy of the Reply to the "Answer" of the United States delivered by you to the Secretary of the Halifax Commission, and reporting your views with regard to the Brief on the Headlands question which you were drawing up, and which you were anxious to lay before the Commissioners as soon as possible, as well as your despatch No. 15 of the 9th ultimo, together with the previous correspondence relating to these matters.

* See Appendix E.—Record of Proceedings. (Statistical matter not reprinted in this Volume.)