

statesmen have been very adverse to it from the first. In the hope of coming to a settlement an arrangement was made in 1891 to submit the lobster disputes to arbitration, but since France required the Colonial Legislature as a preliminary to enact some measure to make the award binding when given, and this could not be done because of the opposition felt towards any arbitration which did not cover the whole question of French Treaty rights, nothing could be effected.

In 1898 Mr. Chamberlain appointed a commission consisting of Sir John Bramston and Admiral Erskine to investigate the whole question.

The members of the commission proceeded to the colony and spent some months visiting the Treaty coast, taking evidence, and consulting with the Local Government as to what might form a basis of settlement and prove agreeable to the Colony.

The Report of this Commission was handed to Mr. Chamberlain in March 1899, but though printed it never has been published.

It is alleged, however, that sufficient of its general nature leaked out to shew that it supported the Colony in most particulars.

One characteristic added to its importance; it was the first absolutely impartial collection of evidence