

It may be convenient that I should place on record what took place between Mr. Blaine and myself on the subject of his second or alternative proposal for a *modus vivendi*, which I communicated to your Lordship privately on the 7th April last.

Mr. Blaine made his first proposal on the 10th March. He then stated that, as there now seemed to be a prospect of agreeing to the terms of an arbitration, it was desirable to arrange for a *modus vivendi* pending its result, and he threw out a suggestion of a radius of 25 miles within which sealing-vessels should be prohibited from approaching the seal islands. I acquainted your Lordship with that proposal in my telegram of the 16th March.

About a fortnight afterwards, at an interview which Mr. Blaine was good enough to give me at his house when he was confined by indisposition, he reverted to the subject of the *modus vivendi*, and he asked me to ascertain whether your Lordship would prefer as an alternative proposal that the killing of seals should be stopped both at sea and on land pending the result of the arbitration.

I should here observe that for some time past I had been pressing Mr. Blaine most urgently, but in vain, for a reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 21st February, in which certain modifications were proposed in the questions which he had formulated in his note of the 17th December, 1890, for the purposes of the arbitration. The delay in returning a reply to your Lordship's despatch appeared to me disquieting, and he spoke somewhat despondingly in the presence of Sir Charles Tupper of the prospect of an adjustment of the questions for arbitration. I therefore informed Mr. Blaine that I hesitated to transmit to your Lordship any further proposals respecting a *modus vivendi* until there was reason to believe that the arbitration proposals contained in your Lordship's despatch above referred to would be accepted; and I suggested that the most satisfactory course would be for him to make his proposals for a *modus vivendi* concurrently with his reply to that despatch.

Mr. Blaine assented to my suggestion, and said that he would "proceed in that order." But neither in his reply to your Lordship's despatch, which was delivered on the 14th April, nor in the substituted note delivered the 27th April, is there anything to be found in relation to a *modus vivendi*. In the meanwhile, I had informed your Lordship privately, by the mail of the 7th April, of Mr. Blaine's alternative proposal for the cessation of seal-killing both at sea and on land, and on receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 17th April, I addressed a note to him, of which I had the honour to inclose a copy in my despatch of the 27th April.

In that despatch I reported the difficulties which were afterwards raised by the President and by Mr. Blaine, and which appeared to me to render hopeless the timely application of the proposed *modus vivendi*. Since then, as before stated, the subject has been discussed in the public press.

The opposition journals criticize severely the non-publication of Professor Elliott's Report on the condition of the seal islands during the season of 1890, and also the dismissal of Mr. Goff, the Treasury Agent in charge of the islands, who had last summer exercised his official authority to stop the killing of seals by the Company, owing to the indiscriminate slaughter practised there, and to the alarming diminution of seal life. Mr. Blaine is violently attacked by those journals for hesitating to put in force at once the proposed *modus vivendi* in the face of the Reports of the United States' Government Agents, and in view of the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to accept the proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 10.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord,

Washington, May 5, 1891.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I received last night from Mr. Blaine containing detailed proposals for a *modus vivendi* during the approaching fishery season in Behring's Sea, based on the principle of a cessation of seal killing both at sea and on land. The note contains a lengthy defence of the reservation desired by the President of the right to kill 7,500 seals for the support of the native residents of