

## REPORT OF THE BRITISH BEHRING SEA COMMISSIONERS.

### No. 4.

*The Behring Sea Commissioners to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 14.)*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, August 13, 1892.*

WITH reference to our despatch of the 4th March, 1892, inclosing the Joint Report of the Joint Commission, we now have the honour to submit, as the "several" Report contemplated in that despatch, the Report which we have had the honour to make to Her Majesty the Queen under the Commission appointing us to investigate seal life in Behring Sea.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE BADEN-POWELL  
GEORGE M. DAWSON.

Inclosure in No. 4.

### REPORT.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

We, your Majesty's Commissioners, appointed to undertake an inquiry into the conditions of seal life and the precautions necessary for preventing the extermination of the fur-seal species in Behring Sea and other parts of the North Pacific Ocean, beg to submit the following Report.

2. The main object of our inquiry was to ascertain what international arrangements, if any, were necessary between Great Britain and the United States and Russia, or any other Power, for the purpose of preserving the fur-seal race from extermination.

3. We were further instructed that Her Majesty had proposed to the President of the United States that the investigation should be conducted by a Joint Commission of the two nations, and that, on the conclusion of an Agreement providing for this, we were to be the Delegates who would represent Great Britain on the Commission.

4. It was also understood that the investigations and conclusions of this Joint Commission would be ultimately laid before the Arbitrators, who were to adjudicate on the international rights involved, and on the establishment of Regulations for the proper protection and preservation of the fur-seal in or habitually resorting to the Behring Sea.

5. Wherefore, in carrying out the terms of our Commission, it has been our object to acquire and record the most complete information available, in order to promote, in the true interests of all concerned, an equitable, impartial, and mutually satisfactory adjustment of the questions at issue.

6. The necessary means of transport over the North Pacific Ocean was provided for us by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the requisite permission to visit and examine the seal rookeries situated in American or Russian territory was obtained at our request from the respective Governments.

7. We formed complete plans for visiting such places situated in, and such areas of the North Pacific Ocean, and holding personal interviews with such persons as should