

mischievous effect of exciting unnecessary distrust in the Senate, and among the people of the United States, and it is presumed even among the people of Great Britain. The President confidently hopes that upon reconsideration of the subject Her Majesty's Government will consent to amend the Convention by striking out Article VI, or at least by amending it, so that Article VI will read as follows:—"In case of every claim, the official correspondence which has already taken place between the two Governments respecting the questions at issue, shall be laid before the Commissioners; and, in the event of their not coming to a decision thereupon, then before the Arbitrator, either Government may also, in either case, submit further evidence and further argument thereupon, written or verbal."

Article VII provides, that the decision of the Commissioners, or of the Arbitrator, or Umpire, as the case may be, shall be considered by both parties as absolutely final and conclusive, and full effect shall be given to such decisions without any objection or delay whatever.

This Article VII is approved.

Article VIII provides that no claim arising out of any transaction prior to the 26th of July, 1853, the day of the exchange of the ratification of the Convention of the 8th of February, 1853, shall be admissible under the Convention.

This Article VIII is approved.

Article IX provides that all sums of money which may be awarded by the Commissioners, or by the Arbitrator or Umpire, on account of any claim, shall be paid in coin or its equivalent, by the one Government to the other, as the case may be, within twelve months after the date of the decision, without interest.

In view, however, of possible delays of legislative appropriation in the two countries, the word "twelve" ought to be struck out, and the word "eighteen" inserted. Article IX, if so amended, would be accepted.

Article X provides that the High Contracting Parties engage to consider the result of the proceedings of the Commission as a full and final settlement of every claim upon either Government, arising out of any transaction of a date prior to the exchange of the ratifications of the present Convention, and further engage that every such claim, whether it shall have been presented to the notice of, made, preferred, or laid before the Commission, shall, from and after the conclusion of the proceedings of the Convention, be considered and treated as finally settled and barred.

This Article X seems unobjectionable, and is approved.

Article XI provides that the Commissioners shall keep an accurate record, and correct minutes or notes, of all their proceedings, with the dates thereof, and shall appoint and employ clerks or other persons to assist them in the transaction of the business which may come before them; that the Secretary shall be appointed by the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Her Britannic Majesty, and by the Representative of the United States in London, jointly; that each Government shall pay the salaries of its own Commissioners, and all other expenses, and the contingent expenses of the Commission, including the salary of the Secretary, shall be defrayed in moieties by the two parties.

I suggest that this Article XI shall be amended, first, by inserting after the word "Commissioners" in the first line, the words "and Arbitrator or Umpire;" and second, by striking out the second paragraph entirely, and substituting for it the words following:—"The Secretary shall be appointed by the Representative of Her Britannic Majesty in Washington, and by the Secretary of State of the United States, jointly." With these amendments, this Article XI will be satisfactory.

Article XII fixes a period within which the ratification of the Convention shall be exchanged.

The Article is unobjectionable, and is approved.

I close this despatch, as you might reasonably expect, with some remarks and directions upon the general subject of the negotiation.

It is sincerely hoped that the amendments I have proposed may be allowed by Her Majesty's Government. It is conceived that these amendments do not, in fact, change the character of the Convention, and that they do not secure to one party or deprive the other of any material advantage which the Convention allows in its present shape. All that they can accomplish is to relieve the Convention of any apparent spirit and tendency to prejudice the largest class of United States' claims before the Commission and the Arbitrator.

In assigning my reasons for requiring the amendments, I have confined myself within the narrowest possible limits, seeking to avoid all unnecessary argument or