

III.

British vessels engaged in killing or hunting seals within the aforesaid limits may be seized either by British or Russian cruisers; but, if seized by the latter, they shall forthwith be handed over at Yokohama, or at any port in the British possessions, or to the Commander of any British ship of war, for trial by the British authorities.

IV.

The Imperial Russian Government engage to limit to 30,000 the number of seals which may be killed during the whole of the year 1893 upon or around the said Islands of Komandorsky and Tulénou (Robben Island).

V.

It is agreed that a British Agent may, when so desired by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, visit the said islands to confer there with the authorities, and to inquire into the working and results of the present Agreement.

VI.

The present Agreement will in nowise affect the facilities hitherto accorded in Russian ports to British vessels as regards refuge, repairs, obtaining supplies, or other matters for which they may properly require access.

VII.

It is understood that the present Agreement relates solely to the year 1893. It has consequently no retroactive force or effect—more especially as regards the British vessels captured previously by Russian cruisers.

In witness whereof, the Undersigned, duly authorized to that effect, have signed this Agreement, and affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at, &c.

No. 19.

Mr. Howard to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, May 12, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the note which, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I have addressed to the Russian Government in reply to the communication from M. Chichkine to Her Majesty's Ambassador of the 6th (18th) April last, relative to the proposed arrangements for the protection of Russian sealing interests in the North Pacific Ocean during the present year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Mr. Howard to M. Chichkine.

M. le Conseiller Privé,

St. Petersburg, April 30 (May 12), 1893.

IN obedience to instructions received from the Earl of Rosebery, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have had under their careful consideration the note which you addressed to Sir Robert Morier on the 6th (18th) April relative to the proposed arrangement for the protection of Russian sealing interests in the North Pacific Ocean during the present year, and that they note with satisfaction that their proposals for this purpose are accepted by the Russian Government with one exception.

I am desirous to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the difficulty in regard to this single point may be removed by an arrangement which I am now instructed to propose: that any British vessels which may be seized by Russian cruisers on the charge of contravening the Agreement shall be delivered to Her