

which citizens of the United States can obtain fishing licenses for vessels owned by them and built in that island.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 133.

*Lord J. Russell to Lord Lyons.*

(No. 197.)

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, June 28, 1861.*

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter from the Colonial Office, inclosing a copy of a despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, transmitting a Joint Address to the Queen from both branches of the Legislature of that Colony, praying that the attention of the Governments of France and the United States may be called to the injury inflicted on the fisheries of British North America by the practice of taking fish by means of set lines on the spawning banks off the coasts of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Labrador, and other territories; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would be advisable that a Joint Commission should be appointed by France, England, and the United States, to inquire into this matter, with a view of framing measures to prevent the practice complained of, if it should be found to be advisable to do so.

I have therefore to instruct your Lordship to propose to the United States' Government the establishment of such a Commission, and making this proposal you will point out that the only object which Her Majesty's Government have in view is the protection of these important fisheries, which it must be equally the desire of France and the United States to preserve from deterioration.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

No. 134.

*Lord Lyons to Lord J. Russell.—(Received August 4.)*

(No. 356.)

My Lord,

*Washington, July 18, 1861.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note in which, in obedience to the instruction conveyed to me by your Lordship's despatch No. 197 of the 28th June, I proposed to the United States' Government the appointment of a Joint Commission by Great Britain, the United States, and France, to inquire concerning practices destructive of the fisheries on the coasts of the British North American Provinces.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have received from Mr. Secretary Seward in reply.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 134.

*Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.*

Sir,

*Washington, July 17, 1861.*

A JOINT Address has been presented to the Queen from both branches of the Legislature of Nova Scotia, praying that the attention of the Governments of the United States and France may be called to the injuries inflicted on the fisheries of British North America by the practice of taking fish by means of set lines on the spawning banks off the coasts of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Labrador, and other territories. And Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would be advisable that a Joint Commission should be appointed by Great Britain, the United States, and France, to inquire into this matter, with a view to framing measures to prevent the practice complained of, if it should be found advisable to do so.

I am accordingly instructed to propose to the Government of the United States the establishment of such a Commission, and at the same time to point out that the only object which Her Majesty's Government have in view is the protection of these important