

ance on the part of the United States Government, solicited by Lord Salisbury, that it would consent to the appointment of a joint commission "to ascertain what permanent measures are necessary for the preservation of the seal species in the waters referred to;" such agreement "to be signed simultaneously with the convention of arbitration, and to be without prejudice to the questions to be submitted to the arbitrators."¹

The powers, according to the *modus vivendi* to be exercised by Great Britain, had been previously provided for by an Act of Parliament, passed June 8, enabling Her Majesty, by Order in Council, to make specific provisions for prohibiting the catching of seals in Behring Sea by her subjects.²

Pursuant to article 4, Great Britain, on June 22, appointed Sir George Smyth Baden-Powell and Dr. Dawson,³ who, during the summer of 1891, visited the seal islands of the Behring Sea and collected data for a report to their Government. The United States also appointed two commissioners, Professor T. C. Mendenhall and C. Hart Merriam, for a similar purpose. In January 1892, the Secretary of State arranged with the British Minister for a conference of the commissioners at Washington.⁴ Early in February, the commission convened. Edward J. Phelps, ex-Minister to the Court of St. James, was appointed to act as chief counsel of the United States before this Board.⁵ As yet the result of the conference is unknown.

¹ Let. Wharton-Sir J. Pauncefote, June 11, 1891, New York Tribune, June 16, 1891.

² New York Tribune, June 9, 1891.

³ Id., June 23, 1891.

⁴ Id., Jan. 27, 1892.

⁵ Id., Feb. 4, 1892.