

No. 67.

Mr. Bramston to Sir J. Pauncefote.—(Received March 19.)

Sir, *Downing Street, March 18, 1887.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th February last* relating to the North American Fisheries question, and inclosing a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, with a copy of a Bill which the Secretary to the Treasury of the United States proposes to substitute for the Belmont Bill.

With reference to the question raised by the Secretary to the Treasury, and referred to in the concluding paragraph of Sir L. West's despatch, as to whether Article XXIX of the Treaty of Washington is still in force, I am to state that the Article was not one which was subject to termination under Article XXXIII, and Sir Henry Holland presumes that it is still in force; but he would be glad to know the opinion of the Marquis of Salisbury as to the effect of any legislation of the United States affecting that Article.

Should there be any doubt as to whether this Article is in force or not, it might be advisable to consult the Law Officers of the Crown.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 68.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 19, 1887.*

WITH reference to my predecessor's despatch of the 11th January last, I transmit to you herewith, for communication to the United States' Government, a copy of a further despatch from the Governor-General of Canada relative to the cases of the American fishing-vessels "Pearl Nelson" and "Everett Steele."†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 69.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 24, 1887.*

IN a note of the 3rd December last, addressed to my predecessor, Mr. Phelps was good enough to transmit a copy of a despatch from Mr. Bayard, dated the 15th of the preceding month, together with an outline of a proposed *ad interim* arrangement "for the settlement of all questions in dispute in relation to the fisheries on the north-eastern coasts of British North America."

Her Majesty's Government have given their most careful consideration to that communication, and it has also received the fullest examination at the hands of the Canadian Government, who entirely share the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government at any indication on the part of that of the United States of a disposition to make arrangements which might tend to put the affairs of the two countries on a basis more free from controversy and misunderstanding than unfortunately exists at present. The Canadian Government, however, deprecate several passages in Mr. Bayard's despatch which attribute unfriendly motives to their proceedings, and in which the character and scope of the measures they have taken to enforce the terms of the Convention of 1818 are, as they believe, entirely misapprehended.

They insist that nothing has been done on the part of the Canadian authorities since the termination of the Treaty of Washington in any such spirit as that which Mr. Bayard condemns, and that all that has been done with a view to the protection of the Canadian fisheries has been simply for the purpose of guarding the rights guaranteed to the people of Canada by the Convention of 1818, and of enforcing the Statutes of Great Britain and of Canada in relation to the fisheries. They maintain that such Statutes are clearly within the powers of the respective Parliaments by which they were passed, and are in conformity with the Convention of 1818, Governments.

* See p. 80.

† Inclosures in No. 56.