

No. 3.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 1.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Downing Street, April 29, 1899.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to the letter from your Department of the 20th instant, a copy of a despatch to the Governor-General of Canada on the subject of the questions discussed by the Joint High Commission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Mr. Chamberlain to the Earl of Minto.

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Downing Street, April 28, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for confidential communication to your Ministers, a set of the reports noted in the margin,* addressed to the Marquess of Salisbury by the late Lord Herschell, on the proceedings of the Joint High Commission, and of reports by Mr. Cartwright continuing the series after Lord Herschell's death, together with a Memorandum by Mr. Cartwright with regard to the position of the questions which were before the Commission at the time of their last meeting.

2. I would take this opportunity of recurring to the inquiry made in my Confidential despatch of the 15th ultimo as to the views of your Government respecting the questions before the Commission; especially that of the Alaska boundary, and as to the direction in which a settlement might be sought. In agreeing to the appointment of four Representatives of the Dominion among the five British members of the Joint Commission, Her Majesty's Government gave a proof of their especial anxiety to support the views and interests of Canada in the negotiations to be undertaken; and it is, therefore, of the first importance that they should be put in possession, as soon as possible, of a full statement of the views of your Ministers in regard to the various questions which were under discussion, and more especially as to the Alaska boundary question.

It is of special importance that Her Majesty's Government should be informed confidentially of the limits within which your Government would be prepared to make concessions to the views of the United States in order to obtain a settlement, as if they are informed what points your Ministers regard as essential, and which as comparatively unimportant, they will be in a better position to co-operate with your Government in securing a satisfactory settlement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 4.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Tower.

(No. 104.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 3, 1899.

MR. CHOATE informed me that he was instructed by the President to call my attention to the condition of the negotiations between England and America, and to express the President's earnest hope that something might be done to bring about an agreement before the day to which the Commission had been adjourned. The President was of opinion that the presence of Sir Julian Pauncefote in this country, either before or after the Peace Conference at the Hague, might enable Her Majesty's Government to consider the possibility of such a result being obtained. Mr. Choate, in his remarks, went upon the assumption that, for the present at least, the difference of view concerning the

* See Part I, Nos. 72, 78, 79, 81, 89, 91, 95, 96, 97, 98, 106, 113, 114, 115, 124, 155, and 160.