

Her Majesty's Government should accept it, you would prefer that the proposal should come from them.

I thought you would like to know Lord Salisbury's view of your proposal as soon as possible, and that must be my excuse for troubling you with this letter during your repose at Virginia Beach.

May I ask you to be so good as to let me know, as soon as you conveniently can do so, what answer you would wish me to return to Lord Salisbury's inquiry.

Hoping that you have already benefited by the change of air, I remain, &c.

(Signed)

JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

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No. 7.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Washington, May 10, 1891.*

A NEWSPAPER has just published the text of Professor Elliott's introduction to his Report on the condition of seal life on the United States' seal islands in Behring's Sea, which he addressed in November last to the Secretary of the Treasury.

I will transmit a copy to your Lordship by the mail of the 12th instant.

In this Report Professor Elliott insists strongly on the necessity of the cessation of seal killing, both on land and at sea, and on the appointment of a Joint Commission of American, British, and Russian experts to proceed to the rookeries this summer to verify the precise condition of affairs.

The usual date for the revenue-cruizers and the Company's steamer to sail is the 15th instant, and it is very important that I should, as early as practicable, be in a position to reply to Mr. Blaine's proposal.

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No. 8.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Washington, May 10, 1891.*

I HAVE just received, from a trustworthy authority, the following Memorandum on the subject of the reservation in the proposed *modus vivendi* desired by the President, which throws a new light on the provision in question.

It is as follows:—

"*Food Skins.*—The slaughter for food of 5,000 small seals annually on St. Paul Island, and 2,000 on St. George Island, will be amply sufficient to keep the natives of the seal islands in good condition physically. The profit to the United States' Government from the sale of these food skins would be not less than 70,000 dollars a-year, which is 20,000 dollars more than it would cost to provide them with fuel, clothing, and other necessities.

"To kill more than these 7,000 young male seals would be simply a wanton and uncalled-for destruction of life, and would imperil the restoration of the rookeries to their former condition."

The Memorandum quoted above shows that it is necessary for the health of the natives to supply them with seals for food.

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No. 9.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, May 4, 1891.*

OWING to the communications which have passed between Mr. Blaine and the North American Commercial Company (the present lessees of the seal islands in Behring's Sea) respecting the proposed cessation of the killing of seals both at sea and on land during the approaching fishery season, the rumour has found its way in the press that such a proposal has either been made by Her Majesty's Government, or that they are willing to assent to it, and that Mr. Blaine is prevented from carrying it out by the vehement opposition of the Company.