

No. 14*.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 24.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Downing Street, July 22, 1899.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington, inclosing copy of a correspondence with Mr. John Charlton, one of the British Members of the Joint High Commission, respecting the Ontario Lumber Act.

2. I am to observe that in the inclosure in the despatch from Lord Minto of the 19th May, of which a copy was inclosed in the letter from this Department of the 3rd June, Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressed the opinion that "had a settlement been arrived at on the Alaska Boundary by the Commission, all the other questions referred to it would have been settled in a manner which, on the whole, would have been honourable and sufficient for the time being." As the matter is, however, in the first place, one for the consideration of the Canadian Government, he would propose, if the Marquess of Salisbury does not object, that the correspondence should be sent, confidentially, to the Governor-General for any observations which his Ministers may have to offer on Mr. Charlton's suggestion that it would be advisable to obtain the suspension, of the Act.

In the meantime, Mr. Chamberlain would suggest, for Lord Salisbury's consideration, that Mr. Tower's action should be approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

H. BERTRAM COX.