

BEHRING SEA COMMISSION.

JOINT REPORT.

No. 3.

The Behring Sea Commissioners to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

My Lord,

Washington, March 4, 1892.

WE have the honour to transmit herewith a Report signed this day by the Commissioners of Great Britain and the United States appointed to investigate the condition of seal life in the North Pacific Ocean.

Under the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatches of the 24th June, 1891, and of the 15th January last, and in accordance with the terms of the Agreement arranged between the two Governments, the requisite investigations have been carried out; the Joint Report, as now submitted, has been agreed to; and we are at present engaged in drawing up our "several" Reports dealing with those facts of seal life, and measures necessary for its proper protection and preservation, on which no agreement was come to in the Joint Report.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE BADEN-POWELL.
GEORGE M. DAWSON.

Inclosure in No. 3.

BEHRING SEA COMMISSION JOINT REPORT.

An Agreement having been entered into between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States to the effect that—

"Each Government shall appoint two Commissioners to investigate, conjointly with the Commissioners of the other Government, all the facts having relation to seal life in Behring Sea, and the measures necessary for its proper protection and preservation;

"The four Commissioners shall, so far as they may be able to agree, make a Joint Report to each of the two Governments; and they shall also report, either jointly or severally, to each Government on any points upon which they may be unable to agree;

"These Reports shall not be made public until they shall be submitted to the Arbitrators, or it shall appear that the contingency of their being used by the Arbitrators cannot arise;"

And we, in accordance with the above Agreement, having been duly commissioned by our respective Governments, and having communicated to each other our respective powers, found in good and due form, have agreed to the following Report:—

1. The joint investigation has been carried out by us, and we have utilized all sources of information available.

2. The several breeding-places on the Pribyloff Islands have been examined, and the general management and methods for taking the seals upon the islands have been investigated.

3. In regard to the distribution and habits of the fur-seal when seen at sea, information based on the observations recorded by the cruizers of the United States and