

His Lordship, however, desires me to add that he is not aware that any intimation has been made to Sir A. Shea in the sense stated in his letter to the Colonial Secretary of the 15th July to the effect "that if application be made, Her Majesty's Government will be ready to assent to the proposal for a separate Treaty between the United States and Newfoundland."

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 122.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 29, 1887.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 10th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before Sir Henry Holland, a copy of a despatch which his Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington relative to the appointment of a Mixed Commission to consider the Fisheries question.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 123.

Statement in the House of Commons, August 30, 1887.

Sir J. Fergusson.—As I have been repeatedly questioned with reference to the North American fishery disputes, perhaps the House will allow me to state that the United States' Government have agreed to the appointment of a new Fisheries Commission of three members on each side. I may add that the right honourable gentleman the Member for West Birmingham has accepted the office of First Commissioner.

Mr. E. Robertson asked whether the powers of the Commissioners would be wide enough to include other matters requiring adjustment between this country and the United States, or whether they would be strictly limited to disputes arising out of fisheries.

Sir J. Fergusson.—I thought I had made it clear that the Commission will have to deal with the questions which have been lately under discussion, viz., those affecting the North American fisheries.

Mr. E. Robertson.—Solely?

Sir J. Fergusson.—Yes, as far as I know.

No. 124.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 31.)

Sir,

Downing Street, August 30, 1887.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a letter from the Admiralty, inclosing a copy of a telegram from the Naval Commander-in-chief on the North American Station, recommending the withdrawal of the instructions recently issued to him with regard to the Canadian Fishery question.

Sir H. Holland desires me to state that he proposes, with Lord Salisbury's concurrence, to reply to the Admiralty letter that the instructions are very moderate in their character and are drawn up on the lines of the former instructions, and that he thinks that their publication should not be postponed as recommended by Admiral Lyons. Postponement of their publication at the present juncture would have a bad effect in Canada, and would tend to strengthen the erroneous reports as to their nature