

ultimately it was resolved on a division, by 38 votes to 12, that the President should be advised to accept the proposal of the British Government.

On 13th June Mr. Pakenham reported to his Government as follows:—

Historical Note.

1846.

(No. 77.)

"My Lord,

"Washington, June 13, 1846.

"In conformity with what I had the honour to state in my despatch No. 68 of the 7th instant, the President sent a Message on Wednesday last to the Senate submitting for the opinion of that body the draft of a Convention for the settlement of the Oregon question, which I was instructed by your Lordship's despatch No. 19 of the 18th of May to propose for the acceptance of the United States.

"After a few hours' deliberation on each of the three days, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the Senate, by a majority of 38 votes to 12, adopted, yesterday evening, a resolution advising the President to accept the terms proposed by Her Majesty's Government. The President did not hesitate to act on this advice, and Mr. Buchanan accordingly sent for me this morning and informed me that the conditions offered by Her Majesty's Government were accepted by the Government of the United States, without the addition or alteration of a single word.

"At the beginning of our conversation Mr. Buchanan observed to me that the privilege of navigating the Columbia River which, by the second Article of the Convention, is secured to the Hudson's Bay Company, and to British subjects trading with the same, was understood by the Senate to be limited to the duration of the licence under which the Company now carry on their operations in the country west of the Rocky Mountains; to which I replied, that the Article proposed by Her Majesty's Government spoke for itself; that any alteration from the precise wording of that Article which the United States' Government might wish to introduce would involve the necessity of a reference to England, and consequently, to say the least of it, some delay in the termination of the business. This, he seemed to think, under all the circumstances of the case, had better be avoided, and it was finally agreed that fair copies of the Convention should be prepared, and the signature take place on Monday next.*

"On Tuesday, probably, the Convention will be submitted to the Senate, where its approval may now be considered as a matter of course, so that the Treaty, with the President's ratification, may be forwarded to England by the 'Great Western' steam-packet, appointed to sail from New York on the 25th of this month.

"I have, &c.

(Signed) "R. PAKENHAM."

On 16th June a further Message was sent by the President to the Senate, stating that, in accordance with the resolution of the Senate, a Convention was concluded and signed on 15th June, and that Convention he then laid before the Senate for their consideration, with a view to its ratification.

On the same day and the two next following days the Message was before the Senate. Mr. Benton's speech was made on the 18th. Ultimately, on a division, by a majority of 41 votes to 14, it was resolved that the Senate advised and consented to the ratification of the Treaty.

Mr. Pakenham then further reported as follows:—

(No. 79.)

"My Lord,

"Washington, June 23, 1846.

"I have the honour herewith to transmit a Convention for the settlement of the Oregon Boundary, which was signed by the United States' Secretary of State and myself, on Monday, the 15th of this month. The terms of this Convention, it will be seen, are in the strictest conformity with your Lordship's late instructions.

"On Tuesday, the 16th, the Convention was communicated to the Senate, and on Thursday, the 18th, it received the approval of that body by a vote of 41 to 14.

"The American counterpart of the Convention, with the President's ratification of it, is forwarded to London by a special messenger, to whose care, with Mr. Buchanan's permission, I commit the present despatch.

"I have, &c.

(Signed) "R. PAKENHAM."

Lord Aberdeen's despatch in answer to Mr. Pakenham's of 13th June was as follows. It is the document which proves that Mr. MacLane had seen the project of the Treaty:—

(No. 30.)

"Sir,

"Foreign Office, June 29, 1846.

(P.S.—July 1, 1846.)

"Her Majesty's Government have received this day, with the greatest satisfaction, your despatch No. 77 of the 13th instant, in which you announce the acceptance by the Senate of the draft of Treaty for the settlement of the Oregon question, which was conveyed to you in my despatch No. 19 of the 18th of May, and also the intention of the President to proceed forthwith to the completion of the proposed Convention.

"In your despatch you state that Mr. Buchanan had observed to you that the privilege of