

No. 7.

Question asked in the House of Commons April 5, 1887; and Answer.

Mr. Gourley asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs if he could inform the House of the nature of the *modus vivendi* submitted by the Dominion Government for the settlement of the Anglo-American fisheries disputes, and also the tenour of the reply of Her Majesty's Government; and, further, whether the Canadian proposals had been transmitted to the United States' Government; and, if so, would he be good enough to state the nature of the despatch accompanying them.

Sir J. Fergusson.—As I lately informed the House, I am about to lay upon the table the despatch addressed by Her Majesty's Government to the Government of the United States, and containing proposals for the settlement of the differences in regard to the Canadian fisheries. It will be accompanied by papers fully explanatory. I do not think that it would be in any way advantageous to anticipate those papers by a statement of their nature, which might lead to misapprehension. The proposals are made to the United States by Her Majesty's Government, but they are in harmony with the views of the Government of Canada.

No. 8.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 6.)

Sir, *Downing Street, April 5, 1887.*

WITH reference to your letters (two) of the 18th ultimo relating to the instructions to be issued to the naval officers engaged in the protection of the Newfoundland fisheries for their guidance during the approaching fishing season, I am directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Admiralty upon this subject.

With regard to the concluding paragraph of your letter, relating to the instructions to naval officers in Canadian waters, Sir Henry Holland desires me to suggest that it will hardly be practicable to consider these instructions effectively until some decision has been arrived at with respect to the proposal of Mr. Bayard relating to the joint action of national vessels of Great Britain and the United States.

If, however, his Lordship concurs in Sir Henry Holland's opinion that the Dominion are right in their view that the difficulties in the way of carrying out that proposal are insurmountable, Sir Henry Holland sees no reason why the draft of the instructions should not be proceeded with at once.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Colonial Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Downing Street, April , 1887.*

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd February last, relating to the instructions to be issued to the naval officers engaged in the protection of the Newfoundland fisheries for their guidance during the approaching fishing season.

Sir Henry Holland has been in communication with the Marquis of Salisbury, who concurs with him in the approval of the proposed instructions, subject to the following observations and suggestions:—

So long as the French are not prevented by law from purchasing bait on the south coast of Newfoundland, there is no objection to the naval officers on the Newfoundland Station being generally instructed to carry out the spirit of the Fishery Arrangement provisionally signed at Paris in November 1885. The instruction therefore in section 10 may stand.

Section 12 of the instructions should, however, be amended by an addition respecting United States' fishermen, and it is suggested that the words, "and except