

bearing animals which frequent the islands in Behring Sea. The fur trade on the mainland is not to the same extent as profitable, as the natives still continue to trade with the British possessions through the posts established by the Hudson Bay Company.

For the exclusive right of catching seals the Alaska Company pays the Government a total sum of 315,000 dollars every year, and when the lease expires in 1890 it will have paid into the United States' Treasury 6,340,000 dollars, a sum equal to six-sevenths of the original purchase-money. The Company has therefore established a monopoly which it is clearly in the interest of the Government to support, and which, it is contended, offers the only means of preventing the indiscriminate slaughter of seals and their ultimate extirpation. The jurisdiction which the Company thus claims over Behring Sea involves questions which are foreign to this Report.

Annexed to this Report are the following Maps and Charts (no duplicate published by the United States' Government):—

1. United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. Alaska and adjoining Territory.
2. North-west Coast of America. Cape Flattery to Dixon Entrance.
3. Dixon Entrance to Cape St. Elias. Jey Bay to Sumdi Islands.

No. 85.

Sir R. Herbert to Sir P. Currie.—(Received December 18.)

Sir, *Downing Street, December 17, 1886.*
 WITH reference to your letter of the 20th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Earl of Iddesleigh, copies of despatches which have been addressed to the Governor-General of Canada relative to the Alaskan Boundary question.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Mr. Stanhope to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

My Lord, *Downing Street, December 7, 1886.*
 WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the question of the Alaska Boundary, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of your Lordship's Government, the accompanying copies of Colonel Cameron's Report on the subject.*

I have, &c.
 (Signed) EDWARD STANHOPE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Mr. Stanhope to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

(Secret.)
 My Lord, *Downing Street, December 7, 1886.*
 WITH reference to my despatch of this day's date respecting the Alaska Boundary question, I have the honour to transmit to you, for confidential communication to your Government, copy of a letter from Colonel Cameron on the subject.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) EDWARD STANHOPE.

No. 86.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir L. West.

(No. 256.)
 Sir, *Foreign Office, December 24, 1886.*
 I HAVE received your despatch No. 268 of the 1st instant, inclosing a Memorandum, accompanied by Maps and Charts, which you have compiled on the history and resources of the Territory of Alaska, and I have to convey to you my thanks for this valuable Report.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) IDDESLEIGH.