

*Sir R. Morier to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 30, 9:45 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, May 30, 1893, 6:12 P.M.*

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions as conveyed in your telegram of yesterday, I have this day addressed a note to the Russian Government in the following terms:—

"Your Excellency's note of the 10th (22nd) instant on the subject of the seal fisheries in the North Pacific was forwarded without delay to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, and I am now instructed by Her Majesty's Government to state that they accept, as a provisional agreement applying to the present year only, the arrangement for the protection of the Russian sealing interests as defined in that note. They will forthwith invite Parliament to enact the legislation which is necessary to carry the Agreement, so far as it binds Great Britain, into effect.

"With reference to the general reservations contained in your Excellency's note, Her Majesty's Government, while taking note of them, have instructed me to abstain from discussing them at present, but to inform the Imperial Government that they, on their side, maintain to the full the reservations made by them as formulated in Mr. Howard's note to your Excellency of 30th April (12th May). It is understood, therefore, that the rights and position of neither Power are in any way prejudiced by this provisional arrangement."

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20, 1893.

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