

The information which has been obtained by your American colleagues and yourselves during your recent visit to Behring Sea will supply you with material for the preparation of your Report.

There are, however, a few points to which Her Majesty's Government consider it desirable that your special attention should be directed.

You will observe that it is intended that the Report of the Joint Commissioners shall embrace recommendations as to all measures that should be adopted for the preservation of seal life. For this purpose, it will be necessary to consider what Regulations may seem advisable, whether within the jurisdictional limits of the United States and Canada, or outside those limits. The Regulations which the Commissioners may recommend for adoption within the respective jurisdictions of the two countries will, of course, be matter for the consideration of the respective Governments, while the Regulations affecting waters outside the territorial limits will have to be considered under clause 6 of the Arbitration Agreement in the event of a decision being given by the Arbitrators against the claim of exclusive jurisdiction put forward on behalf of the United States.

The Report is to be presented in the first instance to the two Governments for their consideration, and is subsequently to be laid by those Governments before the Arbitrators to assist them in determining the more restricted question as to what, if any, Regulations are essential for the protection of the fur-bearing seals outside the territorial jurisdiction of the two countries.

In the event of any points arising on which the Commissioners are unable to arrive at an understanding, they should report jointly or severally to each Government on such points.

In conclusion, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government place every reliance on your tact and discretion in the conduct of your investigations with your American colleagues, who will, no doubt, be equally desirous with yourselves of arriving at a common agreement on the questions to be discussed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Commission passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet appointing Sir George Smyth Baden-Powell, K.C.M.G., M.P., and Professor George Mercer Dawson, Assistant Director and Geologist of the Canadian Geological and Natural History Survey, to be Her Majesty's Commissioners under the Behring Sea Joint Commission Agreement between Great Britain and the United States of the 18th December, 1891.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India, &c., &c., &c., to all and singular to whom these presents shall come, greeting!

Whereas we have deemed it expedient that Commissioners should be appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the conditions of seal life in Behring Sea and the measures necessary for its proper protection and preservation under the Agreement between Great Britain and the United States of America of the 18th December, 1891.

Now know ye that we, reposing especial trust and confidence in the diligence, skill, and integrity of our trusty and well-beloved Sir George Smyth Baden-Powell, Knight Commander of our most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Member of Parliament, and of our trusty and well-beloved Professor George Mercer Dawson, Assistant Director and Geologist of the Canadian Geological and Natural History Survey, have nominated, constituted, and appointed, and do by these presents nominate, constitute, and appoint them our Commissioners to undertake the inquiry aforesaid.

And we do hereby give to our said Commissioners Full Power and authority to do and perform all acts, matters, and things which may be necessary and proper for duly carrying into effect the object of this our Commission.

In witness whereof we have signed these presents with our Royal hand.

Given at our Court at Osborne the 1st day of January in the year of our Lord 1892, and in the 55th year of our reign.

By Her Majesty's command,
(Countersigned) SALISBURY.
