

No. 5.

Sir R. Morier to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 31.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 25, 1893.

I CALLED upon M. Chichkine to-day, and asked him whether he was in a position to give me an answer to the note I had addressed to him on Monday respecting the Memorial addressed to Her Majesty's Government by certain sealing captains, who inquired what waters of the North Pacific Ocean would be open to them for sealing purposes this season. His Excellency said that he would not be able to do so until my note had been returned from the Ministry of Domains, which was the Department which dealt with the question of sealing, and to which it had been sent. He would press its return, but there could be no doubt what the answer would be. The Russian Government were not at present raising the pretension of prohibiting seal fishing on the high seas, but were only determined to stop the resolute and organized attacks made upon the rookeries within her territorial waters. I said that the strongest warning would be given to British sealers to abstain from violating Russian territorial waters, and that Her Majesty's cruisers would be instructed accordingly.

His Excellency stated, incidentally, that he believed that in the case of the sealers captured last season, it would be found that none of them had been taken illegally, for if they had been seized outside territorial waters, it was after the clearest proof that they had just emerged from them. I said this was a matter of evidence in each particular case, which I could not attempt to judge; but that from the statements made by the Russian cruisers themselves, it was difficult to admit that the captures were lawful.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

No. 6.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir R. Morier.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 4, 1893.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 25th ultimo, forwarding copy of a note which you have addressed to M. Chichkine on the subject of the limits within which sealing in Behring's Sea should be carried on during the approaching season.

The note which you have addressed to the Russian Minister on this question is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 7.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir R. Morier.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 4, 1893.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 25th ultimo, recording a conversation with M. Chichkine, in which you pressed for an answer to your inquiry as to the limits in which sealing might be carried on during the approaching season in the eastern portion of Behring Sea.

The language held by your Excellency on this occasion is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.