

The substance of Sir J. Pauncefote's Telegram has been communicated by telegraph to the Governor-General of Canada.

The High Commissioner for Canada.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 15.

The HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Victoria Chambers, 17, Victoria Street, London,
October 27, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAD the honour to receive at Paris, on the 23rd instant, Mr. Bramston's Despatch of the same date,* saying:—

"I am directed by Lord Knutsford to acquaint you that a Telegram dated 6th instant has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, of which the following is the purport:

"With reference to your Despatch of the 10th ultimo, introducing Mr. Bond, I have presented that gentleman to Mr. Secretary Blaine, and negotiations are now going on with a view to an independent arrangement between the United States and Newfoundland relating to the fisheries. Before negotiations go further, I would suggest that the Government of Canada might be informed of them, as they might wish to negotiate on the same lines as regards New Brunswick and Nova Scotia."

I had previously received a telegram from the Premier of Canada as follows:—

"Bond, Whiteway's Minister, now at Washington, announces authority from Imperial Government to make separate Fishery Treaty. Ascertain truth and enter protest. See 'New York Herald,' 13th, 'Boston Herald,' 18th October."

I believe I am right in saying that in reference to the question of the Atlantic North American fisheries Her Majesty's Government has hitherto invariably recognized the importance of obtaining unity of action, so far as was possible, on the part of all the Colonies interested. In the Treaty of Reciprocity with the United States in 1854, the consent of Newfoundland, as well as of the various provinces of Canada, was made necessary to its going into operation; and the same course was followed, subsequent to confederation, in reference to the treaties of 1871 and 1888.

I learn with deep regret that this obviously sound policy has not only been departed from, but that, while Newfoundland has on previous occasions been fully advised as to negotiations that were to be undertaken, Her Majesty's Government have, without any intimation to Canada of what was proposed, authorized, so long ago as the 10th September, Newfoundland to open negotiations for a separate treaty with the United States; and that the first communication to Canada is a suggestion from Sir J. Pauncefote not to include Canada in the proposed arrangements, but "that the Government of Canada might be informed of them, as they might wish to negotiate on the same lines as regards New Brunswick and Nova Scotia," i.e., for a treaty independent of the other provinces of Canada.

I should fail in my duty to the Crown, as well as to Canada, if I did not promptly assure your Lordship that I feel confident the difficulties of the vexed question of the British North American fisheries will be greatly increased by the wide departure that is now proposed from the long-established policy that has hitherto prevailed upon this very important question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES TUPPER.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

P.S.—Since writing my letter, I have received the following Telegram from Sir John A. Macdonald, which I beg to quote for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government:—

"Can scarcely believe Newfoundland has received authority from Imperial Government to make separate arrangement respecting fisheries. The relations of all the North American provinces to United States and to the Empire would be affected. We are not informed of powers given to Bond, and desire communication of them. Please represent strongly how the fishery and commercial interest of Canada will be