

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 34

A treaty providing for the establishment of a Peace Commission with Chile was signed at Santiago on the 28th March, 1919, ratifications being exchanged on the 23rd October, 1919.

Similar treaties with Peru (signed at Lima, July 16, 1918) and with Brazil (signed at Rio de Janeiro, April 4, 1919) still await ratification.

FRANCO-CANADIAN COMMERCIAL TREATY.

Notice was given on the 19th March, 1920, on behalf of Canada to the French Government finally to determine the provisional operation of the Franco-Canadian Commercial Conventions of 1907 and 1909 as from the 19th June, 1920.

Turning to matters more directly concerned with our own continent, the following might be noticed.

SOCKEYE SALMON TREATY.

One of the important questions dealt with by the Canadian American Fisheries Conference of 1918, had been the preparation of the draft of a treaty for the regulation and protection of the sockeye salmon fisheries in the Fraser river, Juan de Fuca strait and gulf of Georgia, which draft included regulations for giving effect to the objects of the treaty. This draft having been approved in substance by the two Governments, the treaty was duly signed at Washington on the 2nd September, 1919, Sir Douglas Hazen having been appointed on Canada's recommendation as one of the plenipotentiaries for the purpose. Approval of the treaty was given by the Canadian Parliament, but when it was laid before the United States Senate objection was taken to the terms of the article providing for the punishment in either country of persons contravening the treaty stipulations in the other, and it was accordingly withdrawn from the Senate by the President on the 17th January, 1920, for renegotiation as to this article.

PELAGIC SEALING.

With the continued growth of the American seal herd on the Pribyloff islands, the number of which a recent census places at about 525,000, the returns to Canada under the treaty show a corresponding increase. In the calendar year 1919, 27,821 seals were killed, the skins marketed being 24,375, and Canada's share of the proceeds amounted to \$303,532.47. This sum was applied on the portion remaining due of the advanced payment of \$200,000 and the annual payments of \$10,000 made by the United States Government during the period when killing was discontinued, leaving a balance of some \$136,000 payable to the Canadian Government.

It might be noted here also that it has been arranged that our share of Japan's take on Robben island, amounting to 55 skins for 1918 and 56 skins for 1919, should be sold in the American market with Japan's share and the proceeds paid over. Killing was made also by the Russian authorities on Commander Island in 1919 and Canada's share of 15 per cent to the number of 96 skins was turned over to her.

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY WATERS.

International Joint Commission.

The vacancy in the Canadian representation on the International Joint Commission left by Mr. Mignault's resignation was filled by the appointment by His Majesty on the 23rd February, 1920, of Sir William Hearst, K.C.M.G. That caused in the American section by the death of Mr. J. A. Tawney was filled by the appointment of Mr. Clarence D. Clarke by the President in July, 1919.