

*Sir R. Morier to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 30, 9.45 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)

ST. PETERSBURGH, 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."

#### INSTRUCTIONS.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 10th July, 1893.

SIR,—I have to inform you that you have been selected by Her Majesty's Government to visit, during the present sealing season the Komandorsky Islands and the Island of Tulénaw (Robben Island) in order to obtain from the local authorities information on the practical methods of affording protection to the Seal Fisheries, and particularly on the working and results of a provisional Agreement entered into between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia for that purpose during the present year.

I transmit for your guidance a memorandum of instructions as to the points to which your enquiries should be specially directed.

Copies of the correspondence on the subject which has taken place with the Russian Government and which has been laid before Parliament, are inclosed herewith for your information, together with the report and supplementary report of the Behring Sea Commissioners and the report of Mr. J. M. Macoun, on his investigations in 1892.

Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg has been instructed to apply to the Russian Government for the necessary facilities to enable you to carry out the object of your mission.

You will receive from the Governor General of Canada instructions as to your movements, the payment of your expenses while employed on this duty, and the transmission of your reports to him.

Arrangements will be made for your conveyance to the islands on board one of Her Majesty's ships, but on this point you will receive the necessary directions from the Governor General.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

ROBERT NORRIS VENNING, Esq.

(Sd.)

ROSEBERY.