

I am directed by Secretary Sir Henry Holland to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a telegram from the Governor-General of Canada on the subject.

Sir Henry Holland would be glad to be informed whether, in his Lordship's opinion, the words in the proposed terms of reference, "in the course of the negotiations," have the effect of limiting the scope of the reference in the manner suggested by the Governor-General, and also whether any Treaty or Agreement which may be come to would be subject to the approval of the Canadian Parliament, or would be submitted to that Parliament.

Sir Henry Holland understands that the fisheries of British Columbia would be included in the terms of reference as now framed, but he would be glad to be informed if this is Lord Salisbury's view.

In regard to the two points first mentioned, Sir Henry Holland assumes that the words "in the course of the negotiations" would not be taken in any way to limit the reference, but that Alaska fishery questions and commercial questions could be dealt with under the concluding words of the reference should the respective Governments desire it, and that any Agreement would have to be submitted for ratification by the Canadian Parliament.

Lord Salisbury will probably concur with Sir Henry Holland in thinking it undesirable, if it can be avoided, to alter the agreed terms of reference.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure in No. 16.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir H. Holland.

(Telegraphic.)

October 10, 1887.

CANADIAN Government would desire terms more in accordance with those agreed on in 1885 (see Correspondence before Parliament, 1887, No. 1, pp. 14 and 15; also President's Message to Congress, December 1885). Terms now seem limited to questions in dispute; the then proposed reference was of all questions relating to fisheries, and was [? expressed to be made with the design of]* affording a prospect of negotiation for the development and extension of the trade between the United States and British North America.

The words, "in the course of the negotiations and," had better be omitted as a superfluous and possibly mischievous limitation.

But may [? we] understand that British Columbia fisheries, as distinct from Alaskan question, are included in the reference, and that any Treaty is subject to ratification by the Canadian Parliament?

No. 17.

Foreign Office to Mr. Chamberlain.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 13, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a telegram from the Governor-General of Canada inquiring whether you can visit Ottawa before going to Washington;† and I am to inquire what reply you would desire should be made to Lord Lansdowne's telegram.

I am to state that so far as Lord Salisbury can judge, delay in the meeting of the Commission would be prejudicial, but that his Lordship has not means of judging very confidently.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

* See amended text, Inclosure 3 in No. 20.

† Inclosure in No. 12.