

Plenipotentiary with Sir E. Thornton in the negotiations held for this purpose at Washington in that year.

The Treaty which was subsequently agreed upon was, however, rejected by the United States Senate on the 3rd February, 1875, and Her Majesty's Government, who had carefully provided that in the event of its failure they reserved their rights of reverting to the Halifax Commission, took immediate steps to urge on the United States Government that the Commission should be constituted without delay. After some preliminary communication with the Governor General of Canada, with a view to consult the wishes of the Dominion, Sir Alexander Galt was appointed to be British Commissioner, and Mr. F. C. Ford to be British agent, on the 27th of August, 1875.

Mr. Ford proceeded to Canada in the month of September of that year for the purpose of arranging with the Canadian authorities as to the form in which the "case" of Her Majesty's Government might be most advantageously presented to the Commissioners; and it was not until after Mr. Ford had made a second visit to the Dominion in the summer of last year, that in the month of November last Her Majesty's Government received the formal assent of the Canadian Government to the case as now drafted.

Lord Derby trusts that the Earl of Carnarvon will avail himself of this opportunity of requesting His Excellency the Governor General to express to the Government of the Dominion the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the cordial manner in which the Canadian authorities have co-operated with Mr. Ford in the preparation of the case, and the active and energetic measures adopted by them in making all necessary arrangements for the meeting of the Commission.

The Imperial Government on their part have taken all the means in their power to insure a successful result, by a careful consideration and arrangement of the points which may come under discussion before the Commission. Since the rejection of the Reciprocity Treaty by the United States Senate in February, 1875, Her Majesty's Government have not ceased to urge on the Government of the United States the necessity of making immediate arrangements for the proper constitution of the Commission by the appointment of an United States Commissioner and Agent, and by agreement or an identic note to the Austrian Government requesting the appointment of a third Commissioner by the Austrian Ambassador in London, in the manner prescribed by the Treaty. Instructions in this sense have been repeatedly sent to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, and, at the time when your letter of the 14th ultimo was received, notwithstanding the urgency of Continental affairs, Lord Derby was considering the form of a renewed and serious remonstrance to the United States Government on the subject of the Halifax Commission, and this, when prepared, will at once be despatched to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington.

If the earnest efforts which have been made by Her Majesty's Government to secure the just rights of Her Majesty's Colonial subjects in this respect have not as yet met with complete success, Lord Derby is at least confident that the Government of the Dominion will recognize the sincere desire evinced on the part of the Imperial Government to obtain a settlement of the Fisheries question, and His Lordship trusts that the renewed representations which Sir E. Thornton will be instructed to make may have the effect of removing any obstacles which may at present be raised by the United States Government towards the speedy constitution of the Commission in the manner prescribed by the Treaty of Washington.

In conclusion I am to suggest that if the Earl of Carnarvon should see no objection, a despatch should be addressed to His Excellency the Governor General, in the sense of the observations contained in this letter, with instructions to communicate the substance of it to his Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed)

TENTERDEN.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.