

Russia, the memorialists ought in justice to receive early information as to the limits within which they may lawfully and safely pursue their industry.

As at present advised, Her Majesty's Government propose to inform them that the *modus vivendi* agreed upon between Great Britain and the United States having been prolonged during the pendency of the Arbitration on the questions in dispute between those two Powers, sealing will be entirely prohibited during the next season in the waters affected by that agreement, but that outside those waters sealing-vessels will be at liberty to pursue their avocation, provided that they are careful not to infringe the Russian Regulations, which strictly prohibit the pursuit of seals and other similar animals within 3 miles of the Russian coasts and islands.

Before making this communication, Her Majesty's Government think it right to inform the Russian Government, as a matter of courtesy, and in order to avoid the risk of misunderstanding.

They would wish to receive the earliest intelligence if the Russian Government make any objection to its terms, and I should be glad therefore to receive a Report from your Excellency on the subject by telegraph.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ROSEBERRY.

No. 4.

*Sir R. Morier to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 31.)*

My Lord,

*St. Petersburg, January 25, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of the note I addressed to M. Chichkine on the 23rd instant with regard to sealing in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 18th instant.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

Inclosure in No. 4.

*Sir R. Morier to M. Chichkine.*

M. le Conseiller Privé,

*St. Petersburg, January 11 (23), 1893.*

I HAVE been instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have received a Memorial from certain sealing captains actually engaged in preparations for the impending sealing season in the Behring Sea. These persons wish to be informed what waters of the North Pacific Ocean are open to them for sealing purposes, especially on the Asiatic side, and within what limits they may count upon protection. Her Majesty's Government are of the opinion, which they do not doubt the Russian Government will share, that these memorialists ought in justice to receive early information as to the limits within which they may safely pursue their industry.

As at present advised, Her Majesty's Government propose to inform them that the *modus vivendi* agreed upon between Great Britain and the United States having been prolonged during the pendency of the arbitration on the questions in dispute between these two Powers, sealing will be entirely prohibited to their respective subjects and citizens during the next season in the waters affected by that agreement; but that outside those waters sealing vessels will be at liberty to pursue their avocation provided they are careful not to infringe the Russian regulations, which strictly prohibit the pursuit of seals and other similar animals within 3 miles of the Russian coasts and islands.

Before making this communication to the memorialists, Her Majesty's Government think it right to inform the Imperial Government as a matter of courtesy, and in order to avoid the risk of misunderstanding.

Should the Russian Government make any objection to the terms of this reply, Her Majesty's Secretary of State would wish to receive the earliest intelligence of such objection, and I would therefore beg your Excellency to communicate with me on the subject at your earliest possible convenience.

I avail, &c.  
(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.