

Joint Statement of Conclusions signed by the British, Canadian,
and United States' Delegates respecting the Fur-Seal Herd
frequenting the Pribyloff Islands in Behring Sea.

Professor Thompson to the Marquess of Salisbury. — (Received November 24.)

My Lord,

Washington, November 16, 1897.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Joint Statement of Conclusions regarding the fur-seal herd of the Pribyloff Islands which has to-day been completed and signed by all the Delegates.

Your Lordship will perceive that we agreed upon specific statements that a certain number of females may be taken without actually diminishing the herd, that the diminution of the herd is far from a stage involving or threatening the extermination of the species, and that under the methods in force upon the islands, and safeguarded by the protected zone at sea, pelagic sealing can never accomplish this final end; further, that the pelagic industry is conducted in an orderly manner and in a spirit of acquiescence in the limitations imposed by the law.

On the other hand, we have, unhappily, to record a decrease in the herd, and a still greater decrease of the pelagic industry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D'ARCY W. THOMPSON.

Inclosure.

Joint Statement of Conclusions respecting the Fur-Seal Herd frequenting the Pribyloff Islands in Behring Sea.

THE Undersigned, duly empowered Delegates, engaged during recent years in the investigation of the condition and habits of the fur-seal herd frequenting the Pribyloff Islands in Behring Sea, viz:—

On behalf of the United States,
CHARLES SUMNER HAMLIN, and
DAVID STARR JORDAN;

On behalf of Great Britain,
D'ARCY WENTWORTH THOMPSON;

On behalf of Canada,
JAMES MELVILLE MACOUN;

have met in Conference under instructions from our respective Governments. Under these instructions we were directed:—

“To arrive, if possible, at correct conclusions respecting the numbers, conditions, and habits of the seals frequenting the Pribyloff Islands at the present time compared with the several seasons previous and subsequent to the Paris Award.”

As a result of such Conference, now completed, we, the above-named Charles Sumner Hamlin, David Starr Jordan, D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, and James Melville Macoun, find ourselves in accord on the propositions contained in the following joint Statement of conclusions respecting the fur-seal herd frequenting the Pribyloff Islands, and make this our Report:—