

regarding the fisheries of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland in the subjects of reference to the Government Commission.

We might also, on our own motion, venture to add that though the North Pacific and Behring's Sea fisheries affect large questions of international law, it is manifestly desirable that the Joint Commissioners should be instructed also to include that subject in their investigations.

We have, &c.  
(Signed) HODGSON PRATT, *Chairman*.  
W. MARTIN WOOD, *Vice-Chairman*.

Inclosure in No. 130.

*Agreement between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States of America to appoint a Special Commission to propose a Settlement of Disputes regarding the Fisheries on the Coast of our North American Colonies.*

*Resolution.*

*Resolved*,—That this Committee learns with much satisfaction that Her Majesty's Government has agreed, in conjunction with that of the United States, to the appointment of a Special Commission to investigate the questions now at dispute between the Dominion of Canada and the United States regarding the claims of American fishermen to exercise their calling in or near the coasts of British territory in those seas.

That, this course being in accordance with the representations on the subject frequently made by the Committee, it desires to express the hope that the instructions given to the Commission will be sufficient to cover all the causes of the fishery disputes, some of which have from time to time engaged the attention of the respective Governments during a period of nearly sixty years.

Further, in view of the dissatisfaction long felt by the people of Nova Scotia regarding the proceedings of American fishermen in their waters, and the more serious grievances of the people of Newfoundland regarding the extensive privileges of French fishermen on their coasts, this Committee would earnestly urge that these subjects should also be brought within the purview and instructions of the Special Commission now being appointed regarding the Canadian fisheries, in order that the whole of these difficult and protracted disputes may be finally settled on a basis of amicable mutual agreement.

No. 131.

*Question asked in the House of Commons, September 9, 1887; and Answer.*

Mr. Gourley asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been called to the reported arrival of the Canadian schooner "Pathfinder" at Victoria, Columbia, from American waters, with 3,000 sealskins, having eluded detection by the United States' cruizers; if so, whether, if not already issued, Her Majesty's Government would cause to be published notices prohibiting British subjects from these infractions of the Alaskan Fishery Laws; how many British vessels had been captured for alleged illegal seal fishing, and whether any of them had been released, or condemned, or the masters fined; whether the vessel recently captured, which was ordered to proceed to an American port, but instead of doing so went to a British port, would, with her crew, be transferred to American jurisdiction; and whether it was true that Her Majesty's Government intended arranging for a reference of the Behring's Straits fishery disputes to a separate Commission, or whether it was intended to refer them to the Commission already arranged with the United States' Government.

Sir J. Fergusson.—Her Majesty's Government have no information respecting the proceedings in the case of the "Pathfinder," but unless she had been engaged in fishing within 3 miles of the coast she would not, in the view of Her Majesty's Government, have rendered herself liable to lawful seizure. Reports have been received of the seizure of seven vessels in all, three last fishing season, and four in the present year, but orders were given by the United States' authorities for the discontinuance of all