

## No. 17.

*Mr. Ford to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)*

My Lord,

Ottawa, May 30, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I was officially notified this day, by Sir A. T. Galt, of the fact that Mr. Kellogg, the United States' Commissioner, and M. Delfosse, the third Commissioner to the Halifax Commission, have agreed to Sir A. T. Galt's proposition that the first meeting of the Halifax Commission should be held on the 15th of June next.

I purpose proceeding to Halifax next week, and arriving in that city on the 11th of June, in order to confer preliminarily with Judge Foster, the United States' Agent.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

## No. 18.

*Sir A. Galt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)*

My Lord,

Montreal, June 1, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to state that having, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, put myself in communication with M. Delfosse and Mr. Kellogg, the 15th day of June instant has been formally agreed upon as the day when the Fisheries Commission under the Washington Treaty shall meet at Halifax.

I have duly informed Mr. Ford, and have requested him to notify the Governor-General of the day appointed.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. T. GALT, Commissioner.

## No. 19.

*Mr. Ford to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)*

(Extract.)

Halifax, June 16, 1877.

SINCE writing my last despatch, I have been engaged at Ottawa, in communication with Mr. Whitcher, in making preparations for the Commission. On the 7th instant I found that I had done all that could be accomplished at Ottawa towards arranging and classifying the documentary evidence relied on in the case, and I therefore started for Halifax, arriving in that city on the morning of the 9th instant, and taking up my quarters at the Waverley Hotel, where I shall probably remain during the whole of my stay here.

All the Counsel retained on behalf of the Dominion, and Mr. Whiteway from Newfoundland, arrived here on the 11th, and I was, therefore, able to consult with them as to the rules of procedure to be adopted by the Court and other necessary matters before the arrival of the Commissioners and of the United States' Agent.

Sir A. T. Galt, Mr. Delfosse, and Mr. Kellogg, the three Commissioners, arrived in Halifax on the 13th. Judge Foster, the United States' Agent, reached the city the same day, and I lost no time in submitting, for his consideration, the draft of Rules which I had drawn up in consultation with the British Counsel.

The first meeting of the Commission was fixed for June 15 at 2 p.m., and at the hour appointed the Commissioners Agents and Counsel assembled at the Legislative Council Chamber, which has been placed at our disposal during the sittings of the Commission.

I propose to defer submitting to your Lordship the complete Protocols of the proceedings until I shall be able to embody them in a general Report at the close of the sittings, unless I receive your Lordship's instructions to the contrary; in the meanwhile I may briefly state the result of the proceedings so far as they have gone:—

The Commissioners having exchanged and examined their respective powers, elected M. Delfosse as the President of the Commission, who, at the request of Sir A. T. Galt that a Secretary should be appointed, named Mr. Bergne as a suitable person to act as Secretary to the Commission.