

No. 136.

Lord Lyons to Lord J. Russell.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 371.)

My Lord,

Washington, July 25, 1861.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 359 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Senate has postponed until the regular Session in December the consideration of the President's Message concerning the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that a Joint British, United States, and French Commission shall be appointed to make inquiries into certain practices injurious to the fisheries on the coasts of British North America.

Congress determined, at the opening of this special Session, to consider only such measures as were directly connected with the prosecution of the war, and has adhered, except in a very few urgent cases, to this determination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 137.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

(No. 480.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 14, 1861.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 197 of the 28th of June last, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, relative to the proposed Joint Commission for inquiring into the measures to be taken for the preservation of the fish on the coasts of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Labrador, and other territories.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 138.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 760.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 13, 1861.

IN my despatch No. 371 of the 25th July last, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Senate had postponed until the regular Session (which has now begun) the consideration of the President's message concerning the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a joint British, United States, and French Commission for inquiry into certain practices injurious to the fisheries on the coasts of British North America.

The Senate resolved on the 10th instant, on the motion of Mr. Sumner, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, that the message in question should be referred at once to that Committee. I have not had any communication on the subject with the United States' Government since the consideration of the message was postponed in July. I presume that Her Majesty's Government still consider the establishment of the Joint Commission to be desirable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 139.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

(No. 498.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 27, 1861.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 760 of the 13th instant, relative to the proposed Joint Commission for inquiring into the measures to be taken for the preservation of the fish on the coast of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Labrador, and other territories, I have to refer you to Earl Cowley's despatch No. 1,438 of the 13th instant, a copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 480 of the 14th of December.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.