

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Mr. Fish to Sir E. Thornton.

Sir, *Department of State, Washington, November 23, 1872.*
 I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 21st instant, in which you are pleased to inform me of the steps taken by Earl Granville to carry into effect the award made by the Emperor of Germany on the San Juan Water Boundary.

The prompt and spontaneous measures adopted by Her Majesty's Government for the final adjustment of the question are highly appreciated by this Government.

The proposition made by his Lordship, to the effect that the work of the Boundary Commission, which was interrupted in 1859, should be resumed and completed by the preparation of a map or chart showing the exact position of the line from the Gulf of Georgia through the Haro Channel to the ocean, under the Treaty of 1846, and the Award of the Emperor of Germany, meets the assent of this Government.

The Government of the United States entertains the same opinion as that expressed by Her Majesty's Government, that as little delay as possible should be incurred in giving effect to the Emperor's Award; and that the surveys which have already been made will render it unnecessary for another Commission to meet on the spot.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) HAMILTON FISH.

No. 20.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received December 31.)

My Lord, *Washington, December 16, 1872.*

WHEN I ventured to trouble your Lordship with my telegram of the 12th instant, I had not yet received your despatch of the 29th ultimo relative to the water boundary through the Haro Channel, which did not reach me till the night of the 13th instant. On the receipt, however, of that despatch I felt that your Lordship would have no objection to the boundary line being laid down on a chart or map either in London or here without its being necessary to send a Commission to the spot.

I therefore called upon Mr. Fish on the following day and communicated to him the substance of the above-mentioned despatch. Mr. Fish said that, as the Session of Congress would be short, and there was a good deal of business before it, he should, being now aware of the feeling of Her Majesty's Government upon the subject, send to Congress on Tuesday (to-morrow) a Bill proposing to authorize the President to appoint as a Commissioner, either the Secretary of State, one of the Assistant Secretaries of State, or the United States' Minister in London, to co-operate with a Commissioner named by Her Majesty for the purpose of laying down on a chart or map the water boundary line through the Haro Channel to the sea. He should also ask for a small sum merely to cover any little expense connected with making the necessary charts.

Mr. Fish said that the United States' Government would have no objection to the chart in question being prepared and ultimately signed in London as well as the accompanying Protocol, and that the only reason for inserting in the Bill the names of some persons at Washington was the possibility that General Schenck might not be in London at the time.

Mr. Fish informed me that, in the meantime, he had given directions that the boundary line, as the United States' Government believed it to be, should be laid down on one of the maps annexed to the British Case submitted to the Emperor of Germany, and on a chart prepared by the United States' Coast Survey; and that when these two were ready, he would send them to me to be forwarded to England for your Lordship's inspection, or that of any other persons to whom you might wish to submit them for examination.

I beg to offer to your Lordship my acknowledgments for your answer to my telegram of the 12th instant, which reached me this afternoon.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.