

I have now to inform you that Her Majesty's Government concur in your views and in the course taken by you, as reported in your despatch above referred to, and that they approve throughout the Reply which you have presented on their behalf to the "Answer" of the United States.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 31.

Mr. Ford to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(Extract.)

Halifax, September 3, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, duplicate copies of the "Brief on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, in reply to the Brief for the United States on the Headland question,"* which I presented this day to the Commission.

I may add that I have been particular in directing the weight of evidence adduced before the Commission to bear on the fact of fishing done actually within three miles of the shore, irrespective of the question of bays; and as it appears from the testimony already taken that the fish taken in the centre of such bays along the whole coast amounts to a very insignificant quantity, I do not anticipate that the Headland question will be pressed upon the Commission, unless, indeed, the United States' evidence should point to a different conclusion as to the quantity of fish taken in the centre of the bays, which, however, I regard as improbable.

No. 32.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Herbert.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 22, 1877.

WITH reference to your letter of the 1st ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Carnarvon, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Ford, together with its inclosure, relative to the Headland question,† and I am to request that, in laying these papers before his Lordship, you will state to him that Lord Derby proposes to approve Mr. Ford's proceedings should there be no objection thereto.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 33.

Mr. Ford to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord,

Halifax, September 10, 1877.

THE period allowed for the evidence in support of the British Case before the Halifax Commission closed on the 7th instant, and I take this opportunity of reporting to your Lordship briefly the result of the proceedings, so far as they have gone.

The evidence on the British side was commenced on the 30th of July, and has been continued during the whole of the six weeks available under the Rules adopted for the procedure of the Commission. Both oral and written testimony has been adduced, the records of which form a voluminous mass of printed matter, which I shall transmit for your Lordship's information as soon as completed and arranged. In the meanwhile I may call your Lordship's attention to the salient points established.

The mackerel fishery, being that most extensively pursued by Americans in British waters, is the branch of the inquiry to which the greatest attention was devoted. These fish first appear on the coasts of the British North American Provinces about the month of April, travelling northward as the season advances, until about the end of the month of October, when they commence to leave the

* See Appendix K.—Record of Proceedings.

† No. 31.