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Canada, }
No. 18. }

The Earl of Carnarvon to the Earl of Dufferin.

DOWNING STREET, January 15, 1877.

MY LORD,—I referred to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Your Lordship's Despatch, No. 259, of the 27th November last, in which you enclosed a Report of a Committee of the Privy Council again urging that Her Majesty's Government should take steps to secure the organization of the Halifax Fisheries Commission without further delay.

I enclose for your information and for communication to your Government, a copy of the reply which has been received from the Foreign Office shewing the steps which have been taken in reference to the matter.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

CARNARVON.

Governor General

The Right Honorable

The Earl of DUFFERIN, K.P., G.C.M., K.C.B.

Etc., etc., etc.

The Foreign Office to the Colonial Office.

FOREIGN OFFICE, January 5, 1877.

SIR,—I have received and laid before the Earl of Derby your letter of the 14th ultimo, enclosing a resolution of the Canadian Privy Council, requesting that the attention of the United States Government should be called to the delays which have arisen in the organization of the Halifax Fisheries Commission.

The Earl of Carnarvon is already aware from the correspondence which has passed between this Department and the Colonial Office, that Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the necessity of obtaining a settlement of a question of such great importance to the Dominion of Canada, and in order that His Lordship may be enabled to show to the Colonial Government that their interests have not been in any way neglected, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to take this opportunity of recapitulating the progress of the negotiations which have taken place with a view to bring about the organization of the Commission provided for by the Treaty of Washington.

The Act necessary to enable United States citizens to avail themselves of the freedom of the British North American inshore fisheries was passed on the 25th of February, 1873, and a Proclamation, dated Washington, 7th June, fixed the 1st of July, 1873, as the day on which the Fisheries Articles of the Treaty of Washington should come into operation.

On the 11th of July of the same year Mr. Rothery was appointed to be Her Majesty's agent to the Halifax Commission, and steps were at once taken for proceeding to the nomination of the third Commissioner in conjunction with the Government of the United States.

In the meanwhile Mr. Rothery proceeded to Canada to consult with the Colonial authorities as to the preparatory arrangements necessary for the meeting of the Commission, and after having spent a short time in the Dominion, proceeded, with the approval of the Canadian Government, to Washington in order to settle, if possible, the fishery question by an arrangement other than that of the Commission. The form which the negotiations eventually took was that of a renewal of the reciprocity Treaty, and in order that Colonial interests might be fully represented in the preparation of such a Treaty the Honorable George Brown was appointed Joint