

The British plenipotentiaries proposed that Mr. Bayard, Secretary of State of the United States, should preside.

Mr. Bayard, while expressing appreciation of the proposal, stated the opinion, in which the other United States plenipotentiaries concurred, that it was not necessary that any one should preside; and the proposal was permitted to rest.

Mr. John B. Moore, Third Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, acting as Secretary to the United States plenipotentiaries, and Mr. J. H. G. Bergne, C. M. G., Superintendent of the Treaty Department of the British Foreign Office, acting as secretary to the British plenipotentiaries, were requested to make the protocols of the conference.

After some discussion of questions before the conference, it was adjourned to 12 o'clock m. of the 28th of November.

#### PROTOCOL.

The treaty having been signed by the British plenipotentiaries desire to state that they have been considering the position which will be created by the immediate commencement of the fishing season before the treaty can possibly be ratified by the Senate of the United States, by the Parliament of Canada, and the legislature of Newfoundland.

In the absence of such ratification the old conditions which have given rise to so much friction and irritation might be revived, and might interfere with the unprejudiced consideration of the treaty by the legislative bodies concerned.

Under these circumstances, and with the further object of affording evidence of their anxious desire to promote good feeling and to remove all possible subjects of controversy, the British plenipotentiaries are ready to make the following temporary arrangement for a period not exceeding two years, in order to afford a "*modus vivendi*" pending the ratification of the treaty.

1. For a period not exceeding two years from the present date, the privilege of entering the bays and harbors of the Atlantic coasts of Canada and Newfoundland shall be granted to United States fishing vessels by annual licenses at a fee of \$1½ per ton—for the following purposes:

The purchase of bait, ice, seines, lines, and all other supplies and outfits.

Transshipment of catch and shipping of crews.

2. If during the continuance of this arrangement, the United States should remove the duties on fish, fish-oil, whale and seal-oil (and their coverings, packages, &c.), the said licenses shall be issued free of charge.

3. United States fishing-vessels entering the bays and harbors of the Atlantic coasts of Canada or of Newfoundland for any of the four purposes mentioned in Article I of the convention of October 20, 1818, and not remaining therein more than twenty-four hours, shall not be required to enter or clear at the custom house, providing that they do not communicate with the shore.