

claims which form the subject of those Articles, and which shall be dealt with as directed in those Articles.

ARTICLE III.

Every claim shall be presented to the Commissioners within six months from the day of their first meeting, unless in any case where reasons for delay shall be established to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, or of the Arbitrator or Umpire in the event of the Commissioners differing in opinion thereupon; and then and in any such case the period for presenting the claim may be extended to any time not exceeding three months longer.

The Commissioners shall be bound to examine and decide upon every claim within two years from the day of their first meeting. It shall be competent for the Commissioners, or for the Arbitrator or Umpire if they differ, to decide in each case whether any claim has or has not been duly made, preferred, or laid before them, either wholly, or to any and what extent, according to the true intent and meaning of this Convention.

ARTICLE IV.

The Commissioners shall have power to adjudicate upon the class of claims referred to in the official correspondence between the two Governments as the "Alabama" claims; but before any of such claims is taken into consideration by them, the two High Contracting Parties shall fix upon some Sovereign or Head of a friendly State as an Arbitrator in respect of such claims, to whom such class of claims shall be referred in case the Commissioners shall be unable to come to an unanimous decision upon the same.

ARTICLE V.

In the event of a decision on any of the claims mentioned in the next preceding Article being arrived at by the Arbitrator, involving a question of compensation to be paid, the amount of such compensation shall be referred back to the Commissioners for adjudication; and in the event of their not being able to come to a decision, it shall then be decided by the arbitrator appointed by them, or who shall have been determined by lot according to the provisions of Article I.

ARTICLE VI.

With regard to the before-mentioned "Alabama" class of claims, neither Government shall make out a case in support of its position, nor shall any person be heard for or against any such claim. The official correspondence which has already taken place between the two Governments respecting the questions at issue shall alone be laid before the Commissioners; and (in the event of their not coming to an unanimous decision as provided in Article IV), then before the Arbitrator, without argument written or verbal, and without the production of any further evidence.

The Commissioners unanimously, or the Arbitrator, shall, however, be at liberty to call for argument or further evidence, if they or he shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLE VII.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the President of the United States of America, hereby solemnly and sincerely engage to consider the decision of the Commissioners, or of the Arbitrator or Umpire, as the case may be, as absolutely final and conclusive upon each of such claims decided upon by them or him respectively, and to give full effect to such decisions without any objection or delay whatsoever.

ARTICLE VIII.

It is agreed that no claim arising out of any transaction of a date prior to the 26th of July, 1853, the day of the exchange of the ratifications of the Convention of the 8th of February, 1853, shall be admissible under this Convention.

ARTICLE IX.

All sums of money which may be awarded by the Commissioners, or by the arbitrator or umpire, on account of any claim, shall be paid in coin or its equivalent