

THE SEAL QUESTION.

Correspondence Over the Behring Sea Trouble.

PROTESTS FROM BOTH SIDES.

The United States President yesterday sent to the House of Representatives, in answer to the resolution introduced by Representative Hitt, the official correspondence between the Government of the United States and the Government of Great Britain touching the seal fisheries of the Behring Sea. In his accompanying letter transmitted to the President, Secretary Blaine, under the date of Bar Harbor, July 19th, regrets the delay in transmission which the President directed on the 11th inst., and says the correspondence is still in progress.

The correspondence includes 30 separate papers, beginning with a letter from Mr. Edward, First Secretary of the Legation and Charge d'Affaires after Minister West's recall, dated August 24th, 1899, and closing with one from Secretary Blaine to Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Minister, dated July 19th, 1899. The first paper is a synopsis of Earl Salisbury's letter of May 22nd, which thoroughly explains the previous correspondence and defines Britain's position on the question. The protests of both Governments are also given.

SALISBURY'S LETTER.

Lord Salisbury, on May 22nd last, in a letter to the British minister says the negotiations afford strong reason to hope for a satisfactory adjustment, and undertakes to reply to Mr. Blaine's arguments. He says it is obvious two questions are involved, (1) whether the pursuit and killing of fur seals in certain parts of the open sea is from the point of view of international morality an offence *contra bonos mores*, and (2) whether if such be the case, this fact justifies the seizures on the high seas and subsequent confiscation in time of peace of the private vessels of a friendly nation. That such action is only justifiable in the case of piracy or the commission of special international crimes is a principle universally admitted by jurists and distinctly laid down by President Tyler in his special message to Congress of February 27th, 1843. Lord Salisbury argues that the pursuit of seals in the open sea has never been considered as piracy, and even if the United States should declare it piracy the United States Government could not punish foreign citizens violating such a law outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States. He then says that Her Majesty's Government must question whether this pursuit can itself be regarded as *contra bonos mores* until it has been agreed by international arrangement to forbid it. Fur seals are animals *feræ naturæ*, and they have been universally regarded by jurists as *res nullius* until they are caught. Lord Salisbury says it requires something more than a mere declaration that the Government of the United States, or even other countries interested in the seal trade, are losers by a course of proceeding to render that course immoral. He declares that his Government is ready to consider a remedy if the United States has been injured by the pursuit of fur seals by British vessels on the sea, but says it would be unable on that ground to depart from a principle on which free commerce on the high seas depends. Respecting Mr. Blaine's statement of the exclusive monopoly enjoyed by Russia, the Marquis quotes from Quincy Adams' letters to the nation in 1821 prohibiting foreign vessels from approaching within 100 miles from the coast of Behring Straits to the 51st degree north latitude, to the effect that the United States could admit no part of these claims. He cites the case of the United States brig *Larot* to show that the right of fishing included the right of killing fur bearing animals. The brig was forced by an armed Russian naval vessel to leave the waters. He quotes Charles Sumner's declaration in his speech on the purchase of Alaska that no sea is now a *mare clausum*. The Marquis also says Mr. Blaine must have been misinformed respecting the uninterrupted possession of the United States from 1867, from reports of United States officers to show that during that time British vessels were engaged at intervals in the fur seal fisheries with the cognizance of the United States Government. He finds it unnecessary to deal with the question of extensive sealing, as it is of seal through pelagic sealing, as it is proposed to examine the subject by a commission appointed by the two Governments. He admits that all such sealing was stopped the seal trade multiplied at even a more extraordinary rate than at present, but cannot admit this is sufficient ground to justify the United States in forcibly depriving other nations of any share in this industry in waters which, by the recognized law of nations, are now free to all the world. Says the Marquis:

The negotiations now being carried on at Washington prove the readiness of Her Majesty's Government to consider whether special international agreement is necessary for the protection of the fur seal industry. In its absence they are unable to admit that the case put forward on behalf of the United States affords any sufficient justification for the forcible action already taken by them against peaceful subjects of Her Majesty engaged in lawful operations on the high seas.

The Marquis declares that in accord with the views which previous to the present controversy have been successfully maintained by the United States, his Government has opposed all claims to exclusive privileges in the non-territorial waters of Behring Sea. The rights it has demanded have been free navigation and fishing in the waters which previous to their acquisition of Alaska the United States declared to be free and open to all foreign vessels.

PROTESTS ON BOTH SIDES.

The British Minister, writing to Mr. Blaine on May 23rd, says that as the Secretary has confirmed the newspaper statements that revenue cutters have been ordered to Behring Sea to seize foreign sealers, a formal protest against such interference with British vessels will be forwarded without delay.

Mr. Blaine on the 29th writes Sir Julian that he is instructed by the President to protest against the course of the British Government in authorizing and protecting vessels which are interfering with American rights in the Behring Sea, and are doing violence to the rights of the civilized world. The Secretary sketches the history of the negotiations under the previous Administration, and says that from the 11th of November, 1887, to the 23rd of April, 1888, Lord Salisbury had in every form of speech assented to the necessity of a close season for the protection of seals. These assurances were given to the American Minister, to the American Charge, to the Russian Ambassador, and on more than one occasion to two of them together. The United States had no reason, therefore, to doubt that the whole dispute touching the seal fisheries was practically settled.

Mr. Blaine says that five days after that assurance Lord Salisbury gave effect to the seal fishery regulation not an Order-in-Council to have naval vessels co-operate in the matter could be drafted "until Canada is heard from." Mr. Blaine says this Government cannot but feel that Lord Salisbury would have dealt more frankly if in the beginning he had informed Minister Phelps that no arrangement could be made unless Canada concurred in it, and that all negotiations with the British Government was but a loss of time.

Mr. Blaine objects to Sir Julian's provisional arrangement on the ground that the open season selected by the latter would find the islands most crowded with seals, especially females going forth for food for their young, and that deadly loss would follow. The sealing vessels would respect the ten-mile limit as wolves respect a flock of sheep. He says that the last proposition in Lord Salisbury's letter, and remarks that the result will be that the rights of the United States will be content to that her rights within Behring Sea and on the islands are to be determined by one of her Majesty's provinces. He says England would rightfully complain if an arrangement between her representative and the representative of the U. S. were broken off at the wish of California. Therefore the Minister's proposition is rejected and negotiations are to be continued. Mr. Blaine proposes that Her Majesty's Government agree not to permit the vessels which injure the property of the United States to enter Behring Sea for this season, in order that time may be secured for negotiations that shall not be disturbed by untoward events or unduly influenced by popular opinion. The Secretary suggests that Lord Salisbury make for a single season the regulation which in 1888 he offered to make permanent.

The Minister replies that further examination has satisfied his Lordship that such an extreme measure goes far beyond the requirements of the case. The Secretary, in reply, expresses the President's disappointment, and quotes authority for the statement that only one seal in ten killed at sea is landed in the boats.

A telegram from Lord Salisbury regrets the President should think him wanting in conciliation, but says it is beyond the power of his Government to exclude British or Canadian ships from any portion of the high seas, without legislative enactment.

In reply June 11th Mr. Blaine says this Government would be satisfied if Lord Salisbury would simply request British vessels to abstain from entering Behring Sea for the present season.

A Washington despatch gives the close of the Behring Sea correspondence between Mr. Blaine and Lord Salisbury as follows: On June 14th Sir Julian presented his instructions issued to United States revenue cutters to interfere with the vessels of British subjects engaged in the seal fisheries on the high seas. The protest says the Minister is instructed to declare that Her Majesty's Government must hold the Government of the United States responsible for the consequences that may ensue from acts which are contrary to the established principles of international law.

The Minister on June 27th says that his Government cannot ask British vessels to keep out of Behring Sea unless the United States will consent to a plan which he outlines for the arbitration of the controversy. Lord Salisbury, in another letter, denies that he committed himself to an arrangement, as alleged by Mr. Blaine, to an arrangement with the representative of the United States. On the last of June Mr. Blaine addressed to the British Minister a very long letter in answer to Lord Salisbury's communication, in which the latter stated that John Quincy Adams protested against Russia's claim to exclusive jurisdiction over Behring Sea. The Secretary says that the quotation which Lord Salisbury makes is most defective, erroneous and misleading. He quotes Mr. Adams' language as follows:

"The United States admit no part of these claims. Their right of navigation and of fishing is perfect and has been in constant exercise from the earliest times. After the peace of 1783, throughout the whole extent of the Southern Ocean, subject only to the ordinary exceptions and exclusions of the territorial jurisdictions, which, so far as Russian rights are concerned, are confined to certain islands north of the 55th degree of latitude, and have no existence on the Continent of America."

The words in parenthesis were omitted by Lord Salisbury. They are, says Mr. Blaine, precisely the words upon which this Government founds its argument. The Secretary refers to the ukase issued in 1799 by the Russian Emperor Paul, asserting exclusive authority over the Behring Sea. He says the Adams protest was not against the old possessions, but against Russia's pretensions to territory claimed by the United States.

The Secretary reviews the negotiation ending in the Treaty of 1825, by which the claims of the United States, Great Britain and Russia to territory in the Northwest were adjusted, and by which England consented to such total exclusion from her own river, the Yukon, to its mouth in the Pacific. Afterwards, for certain concessions on the St. Lawrence, the United States gave Great Britain the right of navigating the Yukon to Behring Sea. The Secretary says that during this entire negotiation the Russian ukase of 1821, asserting jurisdiction in Behring Sea, was unquestioned. England did not question Russia's domain over Alaska, and during Russia's domain over the ukase recognized the rights under the ukase in the Behring Sea. The United States treaties with Russia were not captured in Behring Sea at all. The Secretary says whatever

duty Great Britain owed to Alaska as a Russian province was not changed by the mere fact of the transfer of sovereignty to the United States. It was explicitly declared in the 6th article of the treaty by which the territory was ceded by Russia that "The cession hereby made conveys all the rights, franchises and privileges now belonging to Russia in the said territory or domains and appurtenances thereto." Mr. Blaine says that up to the cession of Alaska to the United States in 1867 Great Britain never affirmed the right of her subjects to capture fur seal on the Behring Sea, and her subjects did not attempt to catch seals in Behring Sea. He refers to a few instances of illicit capture of seals before that time, but says these are only exceptions which prove the rule.

A LAST LONG LETTER.

The last letter, which would fill over twenty newspaper columns, was addressed by Mr. Blaine to Sir Julian on Bar Harbor last Saturday. In it the Secretary takes up the errors which Lord Salisbury thinks he has gathered from the records of his office. He says:

I am instructed by the President to say that the United States is willing to consider all the proceedings of April 18th, 1899, as cancelled, so far as American rights may be concerned. This far as American rights may be concerned, Lord Salisbury and Mr. Phelps on the 23rd of February, 1899, made an agreement made directly between the two Governments and did not include the rights of Russia or of Great Britain. We leave the agreement of April 18th to be maintained, if maintained at all, by Russia, for whose cause and for whose advantage it was, presumably designed.

Mr. Blaine also refers to Lord Salisbury's statement that political events in the United States had caused an interruption of negotiations and not a Canadian objection, and closes the voluminous correspondence as follows:

I am justified in assuming that Lord Salisbury cannot recur to the remark of Mr. Phelps as to the breaking off of the negotiation, because the negotiation was in actual progress for more than four months after the remark was made and Mr. Phelps himself took large part in it. Upon this recital of facts I am unable to recall or in any way to qualify the statement which I made in my note of June 4th to the effect that Lord Salisbury abruptly closed the negotiations because the Canadian Government objected and that he assigned no other reason whatever. Lord Salisbury expresses the belief that even if the views I have taken of these transactions were not heard of the negotiation, the argument to which Lord Salisbury refers is, I presume, the remembrance which I made by the policy of the President against the change of policy by Her Majesty's Government without notice and against the wish of the United States. The interposition of the wishes of the British Government between two nations which, according to Mr. Phelps, had been virtually agreed upon by the President against the change of policy by a grave injustice to the Government of the United States.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The Washington Critic, an organ of the Democratic party, says to-night:

There is but one interpretation of the Behring Sea correspondence, and that is that the United States has been deceived and reduced to its plain and honest significance. It is a threat on England's part to retreat on June 14th. When we bought Alaska from Russia we bought certain islands and fisheries together with the claims appertaining thereto. As long as Russia held the possessions her claims were maintained and enforced. England protested, but Russia held on. The publication of the correspondence on the 11th of June has put us in a position where we are confronted with a crisis. Either we are to abandon our claims in the fur seal fisheries, for unless we do so we shall lose them, or we must prepare to encounter England's wrath. There is no mistaking the British ultimatum as submitted by Sir Julian Pauncefote. It means that and nothing else. England is willing to arbitrate. But English and Canadian vessels are to prey upon our seal fisheries, and we are to be the victims of their depredations. The conclusion of the arbitration, in a word, England is determined to have her way, and we are to be the victims of her depredations. The conclusion of the arbitration, in a word, England is determined to have her way, and we are to be the victims of her depredations.

The New York Herald has the following: The difficulty with this contention is that we cannot control the fisheries unless we hold dominion over the sea, and we cannot hold this dominion unless it is a closed sea. The dominion is not yet conceded. Let us hope that the discussion will turn from one of right to one of policy. Both sides are agreed that the value of the seal fisheries and the importance of their protection. The interests of both the United States and England will be served by a satisfactory agreement for protection.

The New York Tribune says: So the matter is left in a very unpromising condition. The two Governments are further from agreement than they appeared to be at the beginning of the controversy. The encouragement of the British Government to continue their slaughter of seals in the Behring Sea, while the officers of our revenue cutters are engaged in the diplomatic warfare, is a dangerous and a disgraceful proceeding. The Secretary of the United States is to be congratulated that the complication may become still more serious.

The New York Tribune says: Mr. Blaine does well to intimate that this sort of thing cannot go on. England knows that her rights are even clearer and stronger than those she is asserting. She knows that she is in a position to enforce her single one of the claims so ably enforced by Mr. Blaine, and she knows that her attempt to sustain Canadian unilateral behavior is a serious protest against it. Its effect can only be unfortunate to all, unfortunate in weakening and in maintaining hopes among the Canadians which can never be fulfilled. Mr. Blaine has left the way open for Her Majesty's Government to advance upon its own motion, and from which it has twice retired at the foolish command of its colony.

More Than He Wanted.

Angry Caller (at newspaper office).—Say, I want that little ad. I gave you two days ago. Wanted, an electric battery in good working order.—taken out.

Advertising Clerk.—What is the matter? Didn't we give the right location? Angry Caller.—Location be dashed! The blamed ad. overdid the business. My house was struck by lightning last night.—Chicago Tribune.

A Fanguinary Outburst.

Every one that now kills a mosquito that has lighted on the skin is a public benefactor. Only the female mosquito stings, and every female lays 300 eggs in a season, the death of one at this time is the death of hundreds. Down with the culex pipiens!—Courier-Journal.

Unsentimental.

Miss Prunella Prism.—When I feel sad I read poetry. Mr. Faxon.—Humph! I'd as soon think of reading a cook-book when I feel hungry.

A NEW ZEALAND CITY.

Something About One of the Chief Towns of the Maori Islands.

Ten years ago I visited Christchurch for the first time, and recorded my impressions of the place in the columns of the London Daily News. A decade means a great deal in the history of a colonial city, and it hardly surprises me to witness the strides made in this "City of the Plains." And yet one is somewhat startled at the magnificent enterprise everywhere displayed. Ten years ago there was a want of finish everywhere apparent. It reminded one of Washington as I saw it a couple of decades back. Christchurch seemed a second "city of magnificent distances." To-day, however, many of the gaps are filled up, and right royally are they filled! Superb buildings now face you in all directions—blocks of solid masonry worthy of London. Half a dozen banks are domiciled in white stone palaces that would do credit to Lombard street, and as many insurance offices flaunt their prosperity in mansions suggestive of cent per cent. profits. Quite a feature of this New Zealand city are the light artistic verandas which cover in a large portion of the business street frontages. Made of iron and glass they are almost an anticipation of what Edward Bellamy forebushes for us in the year 2,000 A.D. The miles of well-formed streets with these light and tasteful verandas constitute a promenade such as London with all its glory cannot supply.

Of course this capital of the church of England settlement of Canterbury is rich in ecclesiastical buildings. A score of solid churches, ranging from the ambitious cathedral downward, attest the loyalty of the "Canterbury pilgrims" to their mother church. There is quite an air of ecclesiasticism about the whole city. The merchants are no less nobly housed than the banks and insurance offices, and the vast blocks in all directions are eloquent of business enterprise and success. From the centre of the city steam tramways run out into the country, and a most enjoyable ride it is past the suburban residences which line the various tramway routes. I rode out this afternoon some six miles to a seaside place called Sumner, and there a more remarkable exhibition of colonial progress I never before witnessed. Every one of the hundreds of houses seemed the abode of easy, well-to-do people, and the beautiful gardens and orchards, which for the most part surrounded the residences, gave the panorama quite an Arcadian charm. Not the least significant of the many signs of progress observable are the meat-freezing works and the flourishing woolen manufactory. It is but fair that I should recognize in the flourishing and thoroughly English character of this Canterbury settlement what has, I do not mean, been a very potent factor in the case—namely, the high character of the original settlers. Some of England's best sons and daughters formed the pioneers here, and they have left their mark on the whole province. The farms all round might be English or Scotch for the compactness of their homesteads and the excellence of their management. There is none of the too general slovenliness of colonial farming here. Neatly trimmed quickest hedges, ample out-buildings, well-built ricks, high-bred cattle, and fields with the culture of gardens, all attest a high standard and first class agriculture.

What People Eat for Pepper.

We find the following spicy item in the London Grocer: "A remarkable case of pepper adulteration has come under our notice this week. A firm of obscure manufacturers wrote to a well-known wholesale house in London offering them any quantity up to forty tons of 'good ground brown pepper' at 25 per ton. The circumstances of the case—especially having regard to the fact that the market price of Batavia or Penang black whole pepper is about 250 per ton appeared so suspicious that the wholesale house forwarded a sample of the 'pepper' to us, and we at once sent it to our analyst, who has supplied the following certificate: 'I have analyzed the sample of 'pepper' received from you, and it is unmistakably adulterated. It contains 10 per cent of sand, and only 17 1/2 per cent of piperine. This last result would correspond with not more than 20 per cent of real pepper contained in the sample. The adulterant is of a very fibrous character, but I have not as yet been able to ascertain precisely of what it consists. The wholesale house who received the sample of 'pepper' wrote, at our desire, to the firm who offered it, asking the lowest price they would charge for five or ten tons. In response to this letter they were honored by a visit from the firm in question, who stated that they might be induced to take somewhat less than 25 per ton, although they had already sold five tons in London at higher prices, reaching as much for some portions as 10s per cwt. They further stated that they had landed the parcel for some firm whose name they did not mention, but they could give no guarantee. They added that the bulk of the article had been sold on the Continent."

Council of Architects.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council has appointed the gentlemen to be the first council of the Ontario Association of Architects: William George Storm and David B. Dick, Toronto, and Frederick J. Rastbach, Hamilton, for three years; King Arnold, Ottawa, William A. Edwards, Hamilton, and Edmund Burke, Toronto, for two years; William Blackwell, Peterboro, David Ewart, Ottawa, and Samuel George Curry, Toronto, for one year.

THE SCOTTISH BARD. Here is an account of the death and funeral of Robert Burns, taken from a newspaper of the time: "On the 21st (July, 1796) died, at Dumfries, after a lingering illness, the celebrated Robert Burns. His poetical compositions, distinguished equally by the force of native humor, by the warmth and tenderness of a descriptive pencil, will remain a lasting monument of the vigor and the versatility of a mind guided only by the lights of nature and the inspiration of genius. The public, to whose amusement he has so largely contributed, will learn with regret that his extraordinary endowments were accompanied by frailties which rendered him useless to himself and his family. The last months of his life were spent in sickness, and his wife, with five infant children, is now left without any resource but what she may hope from the regard due to the memory of her husband. Actuated by the regard which is due to the shade of such a genius, his remains were interred on Monday last, the 25th of July, with military honors and every suitable respect. The corpse having previously been conveyed to the town hall of Dumfries, remained there till the following ceremony took place: The military band, consisting of the Clackmannan and the Angusshire fencibles, having handsomely rendered their services, lined the streets on both sides to the burial ground. The Royal Dumfriesshire volunteers, of which he was a member, in uniform, with crepe on their left arm, supported the bier; a party of that corps, appointed to perform the military obsequies, moving in slow, solemn time to the 'Dead March in Saul,' which was played by a military band—proceeded in mournful array with arms reversed. The principal part of the inhabitants of the neighborhood, with a number of particular friends of the bard, from remote parts, followed in procession, the great bells of the churchyard gale, the funeral party, according to the rules of that exercise, formed two lines, and leaned their heads on their firelocks pointed to the ground. Through this space the corpse was carried. The party drew up alongside the grave, and after the interment fired three volleys over it. The whole ceremony presented a solemn, grand, and affecting spectacle, and accorded with the general regret for the loss of a man whose like we shall scarce see again."

Birth of a Dromedary.

A female dromedary was born in Captain Cassell's stable, Baltimore. The proud mother is Druid. The little lady stands about three feet high, and has a slender body but very long legs. This is the fourth dromedary born at the park. The first, Horace, died in infancy. His hide, hump and all Captain Cassell had mounted. It is now in the captain's parlor. The second, Kate, was sold to the circus, with the grandmother of the baby just arrived. The third, another Horace, still lives. He, with Druid and the baby, compose the drove now at the park.

MISS NELLIE SALENO, a graduate of Alma Ladies' College, St. Thomas, Ontario, has been head of the Art Department in Simpson College, Iowa, (over 300 pupils) for several years. Alma's graduates in all Departments are doing credit to their Alma Mater. Any of our readers so desiring can secure a 60 pp. Calendar by addressing PRINCIPAL AUSTIN, B.D.

Vacation.

If you have made your plans for vacation, look them over carefully and see if they include a supply of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. The purest and best of the country or by the seaside, but to make the most of the time given you for rest, take Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It will quicken the appetite, insure perfect digestion, remove from the blood all debilitating, life destroying humors, and supply the system with the electric element of health, energy, and strength.

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AS FALSIFFABLE AS MILK.

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When I say Cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time, and then have them return again. I MEAN A RADICAL CURE. I have made the disease of Epilepsy or Falling Sickness a life-long study. I have found my remedy to Cure the worst cases. Because others have failed I have no reason to doubt that my remedy will cure you for a lifetime and a Free Bottle of my Invaluable Remedy. Give Express and Post Office. It costs you nothing for a trial, and it will cure you. Address—44 E. COOK ST., CHICAGO, ILL. Branch Office, 188 WEST ADELAIDE STREET, TORONTO.

CONSUMPTION SURELY CURED

TO THE EDITOR:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their Express and Post Office Address. Respectfully, T. A. SLOOMER, M.D., 188 West Adelaide St., TORONTO, ONTARIO.

THE FIRST RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

The first railroad accident occurred on the Great Western road of England. A train was rushing along when a piece of earth and stones fell from the embankment and obstructed the way. Persons were killed and many injured. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental death in all cases. The old common law provision that any person who caused the death of another should be forfeited to the crown was not enforced. Years, but a heavy fine was imposed on the owners of any chattel doing injury to the king's subjects. The law was observed as late as 1847, when Parliament abolished the practice.

Dainty Mosaic Work.

The matter of the daintiest handiwork of a face wrought in mosaic, 1,700,000 pieces were used, the value of which was less than \$12,000. Such a trophy of patient industry and artistic skill, has given the portrait of V. who lived in the sixteenth century.

Assessed valuation of real estate in this year, for purposes of taxation, \$431,027,444, an increase of \$22,000,000 over last year.

From Zanzibar state that all the others except the Germans well the establishment of a British province.