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THE PROCLAMATION.

The President States that an Arrangement for a Modus Vivendi Has Been Made.

FULL TEXT OF THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT.

Naval Vessels to be Dispatched from San Francisco to Alaska Without Delay.

By Telegraph to the News.

THE BEHRING SEA TROUBLE.

The Problem Solved to the Satisfaction of all Concerned.

WASHINGTON, June 15.—The President today issued a proclamation stating that an agreement for a modus vivendi between the government of the United States and the government of her Britannic majesty in relation to the fur seal fisheries in Behring sea was concluded on the 18th day of last June. It reads:

"For the purpose of avoiding irritation, collisions, and with a view to promote a friendly settlement of the questions pending between the two governments touching their respective rights in Behring sea, and for the preservation of the seal species, the following agreement is made without prejudice to the rights or claims of either party:

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

will prohibit until May next seal killing in that part of Behring sea lying eastward of the line of demarcation described in article No. 1 of the treaty of 1867 between the United States and Russia, and will unite with the President in efforts to insure the observance of this prohibition by British subjects and vessels.

"2—The United States government will prohibit seal killing for the same period in the same part of Behring sea and on the shores and islands thereof, belonging to it, and will use its utmost efforts to insure the observance of this prohibition by British subjects and vessels.

"3—The United States government will prohibit seal killing for the same period in the same part of Behring sea and on the shores and islands thereof, belonging to it, and will use its utmost efforts to insure the observance of this prohibition by citizens and vessels.

"4—Every vessel or person offending against this prohibition in the waters of the Behring sea outside of the ordinary territorial limits of the United States may be seized and detained by naval or other duly commissioned officers of either of the high contracting parties, but they shall be handed over as soon as practicable to the authorities of the nation to which they respectively belong, who shall alone have jurisdiction to try the offense and inflict penalties for the same. The witnesses and persons necessary to establish the offense shall also be sent with them.

"5—In order to facilitate such proper inquiries as her majesty's government may desire to make with a view to the prevention of the case that an agreement for arbitration may be arrived at, it is agreed that suitable persons, designated by Great Britain, will be permitted at any time, upon application, to visit or reside upon the seal islands during the present sealing season for that purpose.

"Signed and sealed in duplicate at Washington this 18th day of June, 1891, on behalf of their respective governments by William F. Wharton, acting secretary of state of the United States, and the undersigned Pauncefote, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary.

"Now, therefore, be it known that I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, have caused said agreement to be made public to the end that the same and every part thereof may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States of America and the citizens thereof.

"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed."

THE ARRANGEMENT

indicated in the above proclamation was carried to completion with a degree of speed without precedent in the history of the state department, and the case had been ripened upon to an unwonted extent. The agreement was signed this morning by Sir Julian Pauncefote and Wharton, and the proclamation of the President followed as quickly as it could be prepared.

The navy department has been advised of the progress and necessity of the case and orders are now in preparation for the immediate dispatch of probably two naval vessels from San Francisco to Alaska, where they will assist the revenue cutters in the task of driving off pouching sealing vessels.

It will be noticed the agreement authorizes the United States vessels

TO SEIZE OFFENDING BRITISH VESSELS,

which, however, are to be turned over to the British authorities for trial, and this feature of the agreement is expected to prove of great value in the pressing emergency that is here to be met, clearing out law breaking vessels before irreparable damage can be done to the seal fisheries.

The department of state this afternoon sent to press the latest correspondence on the subject. It begins with a note of June 3, from Sir Julian Pauncefote in reply to Secretary Blaine's letter of May 6, replying to those propositions. Sir Julian replied with an amended draft of the agreement, which differs from that signed today.

In reply the President offered a proposition suggesting such changes as would give to the modus vivendi the character of an agreement looking toward arbitration and so that the stipulation for the prohibition of killing upon the lands of the United States might not seem to be an order, and that the obligations of the respective governments to give prompt and vigorous effect to the agreement might be more clearly expressed. The President stated no British consular functions could be extended on Behring Sea island, but reasonable facilities might be extended to Great Britain for investigating at the islands any fact involved in the controversy to be arbitrated. The bringing of

RUSSIA INTO THE AFFAIR

at this time would prove simply prejudicial of the agreement on a modus vivendi and could not be granted by the United States.

On this point the official communication says that the fourth clause of the proposal of Her Majesty's government limiting the taking effect of the modus vivendi upon the concurrence of Russia presents what seems to the President an inexplicable difficulty, and the alternative to that suggestion by Her Majesty's government would, in his opinion, prevent the exact conclusion of any agreement and would inevitably cause much delay as to thwart the purpose which he more than any other person desires to see fulfilled, viz., the preservation of the fur seal. He is prepared to think the result did not suggest doubt upon Russian good faith and does not doubt that it will be appeased to him on representation.

"I am also directed to remind you, or be cautious, that the contention of the United States and Great Britain has been limited to that part of Behring sea eastward of the line of demarcation described in our convention with Russia, to which Russia has never assented nor claimed to have the exclusive control of the fur