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SALISBURY'S REPLY.

The Exact Nature of It, as Regarding the Modus Vivendi, Unknown

TO ALL EXCEPT A VERY FEW OF OFFICIALS.

Quite a Formidable Fleet to Go to the Northern Pacific in Case They are Needed.

By Telegraph to the News.

THE BERING QUESTION.

Salisbury's Reply Not Yet Made Publicly Known.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The nature of the reply of Lord Salisbury to the last note from the state department, relative to a renewal of the modus vivendi for the conduct of the seal fisheries in Bering Sea, is known to scarcely a dozen persons, except the President, the British minister, and a very few officials of the government of state. Even the Republican members of the Senate committee on foreign relations and the House committee on foreign affairs, usually informed promptly of any new phase in the negotiations, are in ignorance of its contents. The conclusion drawn by some, from this reticence on the part of the Administration to inform them upon the subject, is that the note is inconclusive as to the main point of controversy, namely, the extent of protection to be afforded to seal life in Bering Sea. It is believed that if Salisbury acceded to the request of the President for

A RENEWAL OF THE MODUS VIVENDI,

he that would have been immediately communicated to the Senate. The silence of secrecy in this case would be quite a reliable for the extension of his argument that the sixty-mile limit of the proposed area proposed by him is simply sufficient to meet all the necessities of the case.

The sealer certainly emphatically "it is only a play for time on the part of the British government." His theory is that the government will ultimately consent to a renewal of the modus vivendi, but will delay as long that the agreement will be made ineffective through the departure for the seal grounds of large numbers of Canadian sealing vessels. The view finds many adherents among the sealers, and it can be asserted safely that if this policy should become clearly defined, the Senate will be unite in supporting the administration in its most energetic efforts to enforce the laws on the subject involved in the controversy in the sights of the United States in Bering Sea.

BY OFFICIAL INFORMATION.

It is impossible to obtain any official information concerning the note received from Lord Salisbury yesterday in the Bering Sea question. One rumor that has many believers is that Lord Salisbury has answered the President's note, insisting on the renewal of the modus vivendi with a counter proposition, that in case one is agreed upon, the United States agree to indemnify Canada in case of any loss of life or property thereby. The United States has always rejected a proposition of this kind. General Foster, representing the State department in this matter, had two interviews with the President on the subject today, and the impression is general that they considered the character of the reply to be made to Salisbury. It is pretty well established that the President is not disposed to recede from the position already assumed in regard to the preservation of the seal herd, and will insist upon a modus vivendi, with or without consideration of the British government.

Another report in circulation tonight is to the effect that the communication is merely a short dispatch ruling that the reply paper to Acting Secretary Wharton's note of the 8th inst. is being prepared and is nearly ready, and will be adverse to the request for the modus vivendi. According to the same report, the communication further says to which that the British government will not interfere with the pelting of Bering sea by United States vessels pending the negotiations for a settlement of the questions at issue by arbitration, though it may hereafter ask for damages to behalf of such Canadian sealers as may suffer by reason of interference by American vessels.

PREPARING VESSELS FOR SERVICE.

It is said at the navy department that no orders have been issued looking to the dispatch of the naval fleet to Bering sea this season, and that no action of that kind will be taken until the policy of this government has been clearly defined, or until the government is informed that the revenue vessels to be used for patrolling the sea are prepared for the service.

Notwithstanding the unsatisfactory situation, it is said that the department is preparing vessels for service in the Northern Pacific ocean, in case they are needed. These are "Adams" and the "Rush," now being fitted out at Mare Island, Cal., both will be in commission in a short time. Another vessel that will undoubtedly go to Bering sea this spring is the "Michigan," now at Sandusky. Other vessels that can be sent out in case it is deemed advisable to strengthen the fleet, are the "Baltimore," at San Diego, the "Yorktown" and "Yantic," en route to the Pacific. These, or a portion of them, with the four revenue vessels, the "Corwin," "Bear," "Grant," and "Albatross," would constitute quite a formidable fleet.

A Terrible Explosion.

CHARLESTON, Mich., March 21.—A terrible explosion took place in Iron Island this morning. The big mill of the Iron Island Lumber company was torn to atoms. Seven men were killed and several others fatally injured by the explosion of the boilers. The mill had been running but ten minutes when the explosion occurred. The inside of the big building is a complete wreck. The seven men who were killed outright or died in a few minutes are: Aaron Cook, Will Bent, Simon Carter, J. W. Brown, Peter Sheldon, Murray Hart, A. Christy.

Engineer James Carter had gone to breakfast, leaving fireman John Ringle in charge. Ringle, James Smith, Sandy Reinhart and Charles Brown are all in a critical condition. It is impossible to say what caused the explosion. Perhaps, the only man in the mill who could tell about it, says it was probably due to low water or too much pressure, but blames no one for the accident.

A Naked Fetishist.

NEW YORK, March 21.—A morning paper is informed from Washington that "Lord Salisbury's reply is a naked refusal to continue the modus vivendi, and is accompanied by no assurance, verbal or otherwise, that the British government will not concentrate its fleet in the Bering sea."

The Canadian Pacific Strike Assumes a Serious Aspect.

WINNIPEG, March 21.—The Canadian Pacific strike has assumed a very serious aspect. Two hundred and fifty men in the Pacific division from Donald to Vancouver were called out today, and dispatches from that portion of the country indicate that a complete tie-up of all operations there, freight and trains were cut loose yesterday by the strikers at different times during the day, and the officials engaged in trying to move trains experienced much trouble. Train hands were driven off and everything thrown away. Some of the new railroad men were shot and one lineman struck with a rock. An official at the Portage telegraphed this afternoon that the situation was serious and that several more men were to be called out. Up to the present it is not known that the men will come out of the east. Upon receipt of this information General Superintendent Wolfe wired to the Dominion government for protection to be afforded to the property in the Rocky mountains, which that a sufficient force of militia be sent to prevent further violence, and that the Mounted force of police in the Northwest Territories be ordered to the Pacific division. The chancellor was communicated to Hobbesday by telegraph and he will call the attention the government should take on the primary elections bill, and other matters connected with the present session, and that the chancellor's resignation of either office, for the simple reason that he never presented his resignation, Cherry has always held with Hobbesday that the chancellorship of the Empire and the presidency of the Privy council could be united. It can be further stated that the action of the Emperor on the resignation of Count Von Zedlitz Trachtenberg is not well known. It can be said with no doubt that the Emperor has made it the business to inform the newspaper correspondents on the subject.

A report was started today that the chancellor had resigned the presidency of the Prussian council of ministers, but would retain the chancellorship. It can be said with no fear of denial that the statements are based purely on conjecture. The chancellor was communed to Hobbesday by telegraph to call the attention the government should take on the primary elections bill, and other matters connected with the present session, and that the chancellor's resignation of either office, for the simple reason that he never presented his resignation. Cherry has always held with Hobbesday that the chancellorship of the Empire and the presidency of the Prussian