

petition, the archbishop concludes: "When we are more American in civil and political matters there will be fewer petitions from vereins in America and conferences in Lucerne for the foreignizing of the Catholics of America."

### THE BEHRING SEA QUESTION.

WASHINGTON, June 1.—The State Department today made public the late Salisbury correspondence on the Behring sea matter. It begins with a letter from Secretary Blaine to Sir Julian Pauncefote May 4th. In it he refers to his proposition after the adjournment of Congress for a *modus vivendi* under which no Canadian sealer should be allowed to come within a certain number of miles of the Pribilof islands. Lord Salisbury feared this might provoke a conflict and the President concluded to propose the suspension of sealing by both nations during the arbitration, or during the season of 1891.

#### MR. BLAINE

refers to the President's anxiety to receive an answer before leaving for his western tour, which answer he did not get. The silence of Lord Salisbury seemed to imply that he would not restrain the Canadian sealers from entering Behring sea, and as all the intelligence from British Columbia showed that sealers were getting ready to sail in large numbers, the President found that he could not with justice prevent the lessees from taking seals on the Pribilof islands. The President, therefore, instructed the secretary of the treasury to issue to the lessees the privilege of taking a maximum number of sixty thousand seals this coming season, subject to the discretion of a special agent to limit the killing to as small numbers as the condition of the herd might demand. On the 22nd of April Blaine received a notice from Pauncefote that Lord Salisbury was ready to agree to the proposition, and Mr. Blaine telegraphed it to the President. The latter replied April 25th, expressing satisfaction but instructing Blaine to inform Pauncefote that some seals must be killed by the natives for food; that the lessees were bound under their lease from the government to feed and care for the natives, etc.

#### PAUNCEFOTE REPLIED,

April 27th, that he did not agree with the President's suggestion and expressed his belief that Salisbury would not accept it; that the killing of seals must be cut off absolutely. Mr. Blaine then submitted to Pauncefote a statement of exactly what terms in regard to caring for the natives of Alaska were imposed upon the North American company by lease, which, in short, means living, facilities for education, care of health, religious teaching and training of old and young in a community of over 300 persons.

If the company should, as Pauncefote says Salisbury requests, be deprived of all privileges of taking seals, it certainly could not be compelled to minister to the wants of these people for the entire year. It evidently requires a considerable sum of money to furnish all requisite supplies, which must be carried 4000 miles on specially

chartered steamers. If the lessees are not to be allowed payment in any form they will naturally decline the expense. No appropriation has been made by Congress for this purpose, and the President could not leave these

#### WORTHY AND INNOCENT

people to the hazard of starvation, even to secure any form of agreement with Lord Salisbury. Behring seal life might be valuable, but the first duty of a great nation is to protect human life. In this exigency the President asked that Lord Salisbury concede to the North American company the right to take a sufficient number of seals to allow of this. Pauncefote notified Salisbury of the proposal by mail and received a prompt answer by telegraph which enabled him to inform Secretary Blaine, April 20th, that his Lordship was disposed to consider the proposal favorably.

"At an interview at your residence on the 23rd of April," continues Minister Pauncefote, in a note, "you expressed satisfaction at Lord Salisbury's reply, and stated that before further steps you desired to communicate by telegraph with the President. At a further interview at your residence on the 27th you informed me that the President desired that the *modus vivendi* should contain a reservation of the right to kill a certain number of seals for the support of natives, etc. At first sight this reservation caused me some disappointment. It certainly appeared open to exception as detracting from the principle of equity, which was a feature of the other proposal. I was concerned at your stating it never was the intention of the President or yourself that the *modus vivendi* should be put in force until the arbitration terms were settled.

"This, I feared," continued Pauncefote, "would prevent the timely application of the *modus vivendi* and justice with satisfaction, no such condition affixed to your present proposal; although the reservation as to the killing of a limited number of seals by the company as a recompense for the outlay, and after a full consideration, the secretary of the treasury has fixed the maximum at 7500 to be killed; that no females be killed, so that the productive capacity of the herd shall not be diminished."

#### SECRETARY BLAINE

then renews the proposition that the governments agree to the suspension of sealing, subject to the above proviso, saying that the President believes the propositions are calculated to produce a result at once fair and honorable to both governments, and thus lead to the permanent adjustment of the controversy, which has already been too long left at issue.

On May 5th Sir Julian Pauncefote replied to Mr. Blaine stating he forwarded Lord Salisbury a copy of the secretary's note.

May 20th Acting Secretary Adel addressed a personal note to the British minister requesting a reply to the United States government. On May 26th he sent another note to the same effect saying the President was anxious for an early response. The situation, he adds, calls for prompt action. A large fleet of Canadian sailors has been for some weeks or months on the seas. They are daily going further out

of reach. Revenue cutters have awaited definite orders. Their presence is urgently needed in Behring sea, and any further delay tends to defeat any purpose for which an agreement is sought. It is quite incompatible with the fitness and justice to American citizens, that this should be permitted to continue. Ample opportunity has been afforded Her Majesty's government to bring this condition to a close by an effective agreement; but the result is still uncertain and to all appearances remote. The President would be glad to have an agreement reached, but he can no longer hold back in furtherance of the vague hope to the detriment of the interests of the Government and the citizens of the United States.

"I am therefore directed," says the acting Secretary, "by the President to say that orders have been given to the revenue steamer "Rush" to proceed to the sealing islands. Another revenue steamer, the "Corwin," is at San Francisco nearly ready to sail, and will very shortly put to sea. Should an agreement be reached before her departure appropriate orders may still be sent by her to the islands. I mention this in order that you may comprehend fully this government's desire to effect an arrangement for this season, and that you may realize how each day delays the business."

"I feel assured," Pauncefote replied, "that his lordship will greatly regret any inconvenience which may be caused your government by the impracticability of returning an immediate reply to the proposals combined in Mr. Blaine's note of the 4th of May. Lord Salisbury, as I had the honor to state to you verbally, is using the utmost expedition, but the lateness of the proposal and the conditions attached to it have given rise to grave difficulties, as to which his lordship has necessarily been in communication with his Canadian government. His reply, however, may arrive at any moment."

#### THE BLUE BOOK.

LONDON, June 1.—The "Blue Book" was published this afternoon giving most of the recent correspondence between Great Britain and the United States touching the Behring sea seal fisheries. It opens with a telegram from Salisbury to Pauncefote, British minister at Washington, dated April 17, expressing approval of Secretary Blaine's suggestion that there be a complete cessation of seal catching pending the award of the proposed board of arbitration. Then follow cable dispatches from Sir Julian to Lord Salisbury referring to the *modus vivendi*, and informing Lord Salisbury that Secretary Blaine preferred that the proposals for a close season should come from Great Britain.

The "Blue Book" also gives Secretary Blaine's dispatch of May 4th, detailing the proposals and the note of Minister Pauncefote to Secretary Blaine of May 5th. In the dispatch to Lord Salisbury of May 20th Minister Pauncefote says that President Harrison is anxious for a reply to Blaine's last note and in a dispatch of May 25th says the President is much concerned, but cannot detain the cruisers.

The "Blue Book" ends with a cable dispatch from Lord Salisbury to Minister Pauncefote, dated May