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THE BEHRING SEA SEALS.

Points that will be Submitted to the Arbitrators in Paris.

WASHINGTON.—The cases and counter cases of the United States and Great Britain, under the treaty to arbitrate the Behring Sea difficulties between the two countries, were simultaneously sent to the Senate and to the Houses of Parliament in London. The summary of the claims made for the United States is as follows:

"That prior and up to the time of the cession of Alaska to the United States Russia asserted and exercised an exclusive right to the seal fisheries in the waters of Behring Sea, and also asserted and exercised throughout that sea the right to prevent, by the employment, when necessary, of reasonable force, any invasion of such exclusive rights.

"That Great Britain, not having at any time resisted or objected to such assertions of exclusive right, or the exercise of such power, is to be deemed as having recognized and assented to the same.

"That the body of water now known as the Behring Sea was not included in the phrase 'Pacific Ocean,' as used in the treaty of 1822 between Great Britain and Russia, and that after said treaty, and down to the time of the cession to the United States, Russia continued to assert the same exclusive rights and to exercise the same exclusive power and authority as above mentioned.

"That all rights of Russia in respect to the seal fisheries in Behring Sea, east of the water boundary established by the treaty of March 30, 1867, between that nation and the United States, and all the power and authority possessed and asserted by Russia to protect said rights, passed unimpaired to the United States under that treaty.

"That the United States have such a property and interest in the Alaskan seal herd as to justify the employment by that nation, upon the high seas, of such means as are reasonably necessary to prevent the destruction of such herd, and to secure the possession and benefit of the same to the United States; and that all the acts and proceedings of the United States done and had for the purpose of protecting such property and interest, were justifiable and stand justified; and that compensation should be made to the United States by Great Britain by the payment of the amount of the losses of the United States, or such other sum as may be deemed to be just; or

"That should it be considered that the United States have not the property or interest asserted by them, it be then decreed to be the international duty of Great Britain to concur with the United States in the adoption and enforcement against the citizens of either nation of such regulations, to be designed and prescribed by the arbitrators, as will effectually prohibit and prevent the capture anywhere upon the said (Alaska seal) herd."

The case for Great Britain, as set forth by Sir Charles Tupper, the British agent, was as follows:

"That Behring Sea, as to which the questions arise, is an open sea in which all nations of the world have the right to navigate and fish, and that the rights of navigation and fishing cannot be taken away or restricted by the mere declaration or claim of any one or more nations: they are natural rights, and exist to their full extent unless specifically modified, controlled, or limited by treaty.

"That no mere non-use or absence of exercise has any effect upon, nor can it in any way impair or limit, such rights of nations in the open seas. They are common rights of all mankind.

"That in accordance with these principles, and in the exercise of these rights, the subjects and vessels of various nations did from the earliest times visit, explore, navigate, and trade in the sea in question, and that the exercise of these natural rights continued without any attempted interference or control by Russia down to the year 1821.

"That in 1821, when Russia did attempt by ukase, i. e., by formal declaration, to close to other nations the waters of a great part of the Pacific Ocean (including Behring Sea.) Great Britain and the United States immediately protested against any such attempted interference, maintaining the absolute right of nations to navigate

and fish in the non-territorial waters of Behring Sea and other nonterritorial waters of the Pacific Ocean. Both countries asserted that these rights were common national rights, and could not be taken away or limited by ukase, proclamation, or declaration, or otherwise than by treaty.

"That in the years 1824-25, in consequence of these protests, Russia unconditionally withdrew her pretensions and concluded treaties with Great Britain and the United States which recognized the rights common to the subjects of those countries to navigate and fish in the non-territorial waters of the seas over which Russia had attempted to assert such pretensions.

"That from the date of such treaties down to the year 1867 (in which year a portion of the territory which had been referred to in and affected by the ukase of Russia in the year 1821 was purchased by and ceded to the United States) the vessels of several nations continued, year by year, in largely increasing numbers, to navigate, trade, and fish in the waters of Behring Sea, and that during the whole of that period of nearly fifty years there is no trace of any attempt on the part of Russia to reassert or claim any dominion or jurisdiction over the non-territorial waters of that sea, but, on the contrary, the title of all nations to navigate, fish, and exercise all common rights therein was fully recognized.

"That on the purchase and acquisition of Alaska by the United States in the year of 1867 the United States were fully aware and recognized that the rights of other nations to navigate and fish in the non-territorial waters adjacent to their newly acquired territory existed in their full natural state, unimpaired and unlimited by any treaty or bargain what ever.

"That from the year 1867 down to the year 1886 the United States, while they lawfully and properly controlled and legislated for the shores and territorial waters of their newly acquired territory, did not attempt to restrict or interfere with the rights of other nations to navigate and fish in the non-territorial waters of Behring Sea or other parts of the Pacific Ocean.

"That, under changed conditions of territorial ownership, and in view of certain new circumstances which had arisen in consequence of the industry of pelagic sealing in non-territorial waters, the United States reverted, in the first instance, to certain claims based upon those of the Russian ukase of 1821, which the United States, together with Great Britain, had successfully contested at the time of their promulgation; but in the course of the discussions which have arisen these exceptional claims to the control of non-territorial waters were dropped and in their place various unprecedented and indefinite claims have been put forward, which appear to be based upon an alleged property in fur seals as such.

"Finally, that while Great Britain has from the first strenuously and consistently opposed all the foregoing exceptional pretensions and claims, she has throughout been favorably disposed to the adoption of general measures of control of the fur seal fishery, should these be found to be necessary or desirable, with a view to the protection of the fur seals, provided that such measures be equitable and framed on just grounds of common interest, and that the adhesions of other powers be secured as a guarantee of their continuance and impartial execution."

In the counter case the counsel of Great Britain treat of the property claim set up by the United States, and, say that "the laws of natural history and the common interests of mankind have no bearing upon or relevance in connection with the question as to the right of protection of property claimed by the United States to the exclusion of the other nations."

Adjourn on the 10th.

It was reported at the White House last Saturday that Senator Gorman had stated that the present extraordinary session of the Senate would end April 10th. Senator Gorman is also given as authority for the statement that the President will call an extra session of Congress, to begin about September 15th.

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WASHINGTON WHITTLINGS.

OFFICIAL SCANDALS COMING TO THE SURFACE.

Money Squandered Upon Foster's Favorites—One Hundred Postmasters Per Day—Factionists Will Not Be Retorgized.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Scandals involving the officials of the late administration are coming to the surface with alarming frequency. One is that unearthed by Secretaries Gresham and Carlisle, relating to the manner in which ex-Secretary of State Foster, is squandering the government's money upon a lot of favorites, all on government pay rolls, that he has taken on a junketing trip to Paris, ostensibly to aid him in the Behring Sea arbitration. As specimens of this pleasure party these two will suffice, giving a fair idea of the whole business: Major Halford was made paymaster in the army at a salary of \$3,500 a year as a reward for his services as Mr. Harrison's private Secretary, and was ordered to Paris to remain during the arbitration, although no one could see the necessity for an army paymaster there. Mr. Foster, who is U. S. agent at a compensation named by himself while Secretary of State, ordered that he should be allowed from the State department funds \$15 a day for expenses. J. Stanley Brown, who was Garfield's private secretary, draws \$10, a day as regular employe of the State department, but having ordered him to Paris Mr. Foster directed that he, also, should receive \$15, a day for expenses, in addition to his regular salary. Another scandal exists in the weather bureau, and Secretary Morton is now investigating charges against some of its most prominent officials that are almost certain to result in a number of dismissals. According to these charges the crookedness began from the time the bureau was transferred to the department of Agriculture, and never stopped.

Unless some sort of a compromise can be reached the republicans holding federal offices in Kansas are safe to enjoy their snaps for some time to come, as President Cleveland has directed that no appointments be made in that state until it can be satisfactorily arranged whether the fusionists or the straight-outs are to be given control, or a division made between them. While Mr. Cleveland wants to do the square thing by both sides it is an open secret that his personal feelings are all on the side of the straight-outs.

No time is being wasted by fourth assistant Postmaster General Maxwell. The task of putting democrats in charge of all the fourth class post offices is gigantic, but it will in time be accomplished. The average of new democratic appointments is already well over one hundred a day, the highest number yet appointed in a single day by Mr. Maxwell being 183.

The administration and democrats generally are delighted with the March statement of the condition of the Treasury. It was, of course known before hand that the payments for the month would necessarily be large, but it was not even guessed at by ex-Secretary Foster that the March receipts would be some millions in excess of his estimates. As a result, instead of the hole in the available cash anticipated, \$1,500,000, was added to the surplus, and the free gold, now near the \$8,000,000 mark, continues to accumulate. Secretary Carlisle has received many congratulations upon his first month's showing, which but tends to confirm the general belief that he would make a successful Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. E. E. Eiley Anderson, of New York, credited with being the principal author of the tariff bill recently made public by the Reform Club, is in Washington. He says: "The reform Club, which has played such a prominent part in the present situation, has promulgated its tariff reform bill, not with the understanding that it is to be accepted, but mainly for the healthy and widespread discussion which will follow."

The silly fight which has been made on Mr. John E. Risley, the minister to Denmark, has had no effect here, as Mr. Risley has received his commission and taken the oath of office. He probably receives his final instructions this week, and rumor says a portion of them will be to open negotiations for the purchase of a Naval station on the island of St. Thomas, West Indies, from the Danish government.

President Cleveland told Senator Roush, of North Dakota, that no faction of the party in any State will receive recognition to the discrimination of another faction, but that the ability and character of the applicant will decide all appointments. By the way, speaking of Senator Roush the impression seems to be general that nothing more will be heard in the Senate of Mr. Hoar's resolution to investigate newspaper charges against him.

TWENTY DOLLAR GOLD PIECES.

A Sng Little Fortune Dug up by an Alabama Farmer.

Carrollton, Ga., April 1.—An interesting case of "treasure trove" has been tried in the Circuit Court in a near by county in Alabama. In 1890 Robert A. Wilson, a well-to-do farmer of Clay county, was plowing in his field and turned up \$8,000 in twenty-dollar gold pieces. The box which contained the gold crumbled into dust, which showed that the money had been buried for years. John L. Wilson, a relative of Robert, brought suit for the money on behalf of Wilson Harkins, who had been dead for ten years, he being Harkins' administrator. Lawyers were employed and the case was highly exciting.

Wilson L. Harkins owned the farm on which the money was found. In 1865 he was a prosperous farmer, and had an elegant mansion on the farm. On March 27, 1865, Wilson's raid was made near this part of Alabama, and an old negro, who was a slave of Harkins, and who was the principal witness for the plaintiff, swore that on the day Wilson's command was near by he saw his master run out of the door with a box under one arm, and a bag that looked as though it contained money under the other. The negro said his master called to him to catch the horses and carry them to a certain thick woods and tie them. He said his old master ran to a plum orchard with his box and bag. The box of money was found between the roots of an old pear stump, near the plum nursery. The money found was all in twenty dollar gold pieces, and they bore date all the way from 1848 to 1865, there being only three pieces that bore the latter date.

It was proved that no one had lived on the premises since Harkins died who would have had the amount of money.

The theory of the plaintiff was that Harkins buried the money at the time the old negro saw him run out of the house with the box and bag, and that he told no one of the spot, and that when he died the secret died with him.

The defendant contended that, as the money was dated from 1848 to 1865, and as there was such a blockade during the last days of 1865, as the war was going on, it would have been next to impossible for a \$20 gold piece to have gone from the mint at Philadelphia to Alabama, from January 1 to March 27; hence, Harkins could not have buried the money at the time the negro saw him leave the house.

The decision, which was in favor of the defendant, Robert Wilson, is the talk of the community.

AN EXTRA SESSION.

The Committees of Congress to Be Filled Out by the Speaker.

Washington, April 1.—The Washington Post this morning says that Speaker Crisp has had a consultation with President Cleveland in reference to the question of an extra session. The President, it is understood, exacted assurance from Speaker Crisp that the latter would support the President's tariff reform policies. He was then informed that the extra session would be surely called in September, and that the vacant committee chairmanships would be given immediate attention.

Owing to the determination to retire Mr. Springer the Ways and Means Committee will need a new chairman. Representative McMillan is the next member of that committee in line of promotion. Mr. Wilson is also talked of. Representative Sayres, it is thought will succeed Mr. Holman as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. Mr. Blount's retirement from Congress leaves a vacancy in the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Judge Chipman may receive that place. Mr. Herbert's elevation to the Cabinet leaves the Naval Affairs Committee without a head. Amos Cummings is thought to have the best chance for that place. Mr. Outwait, it is said, wishes to be relieved of the chairmanship of the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Tarsney, of Missouri, may take the chairmanship of the Committee on Pensions. It was offered him by Speaker Crisp subsequent to latter's interview with President Cleveland. Mr. Tarsney will take it under certain conditions, chief among which are a message from President Cleveland outlining the policy to be pursued, and a committee in which the G. A. R. element is not dominant. The retirement of Representative Stump from Congress leaves the important Committee on Immigration to be provided with a head.

NEW NORTH CAROLINA LAWS.

Captions of the Laws Passed by the Last Legislature, With a Review of Some of Its Most Important Enactments, Taxation and Appropriations.

[We shall publish under this heading from week to week the new laws as enacted by the recent legislature until the list is complete, and as compiled and printed in the Raleigh North Carolinian.—Ed.]

APPROPRIATIONS.

The principal appropriations for the various public institutions and other appropriations were as follows: Insane Asylum, Western, \$960,000; Raleigh, \$80,000; Eastern, \$42,000, total \$1,082,000; State University, \$20,000 regular; \$10,000 for repairs and improvements; Deaf and Dumb institution, \$40,000 regular; institution for the blind, \$40,000 and \$5,000 for improvements; Agricultural and Mechanical College, \$17,500; colored, \$7,500; Greensboro Normal and Industrial School, \$12,500 regular; \$4,500 to pay half the debt; colored normal schools, \$6,000; normal school at Cullowee, white, \$1,500; colored normal school at Durham, \$1,200; to establish a quarantine station at the mouth of the Cape Fear, \$20,000; Confederate monument, \$10,000; to play for the purchase of the steamer Lillie, \$6,500; to put vault in treasurer's office, \$2,500; colored orphan asylum at Oxford, \$2,000; for finishing and furnishing the Governor's mansion, \$4,000. The act of the General Assembly of 1891 appropriating \$25,000 to the World's Fair was ratified, but no new appropriation was made.

THE REVENUE ACT—RATE OF TAXATION.

The expenditures for the year are estimated at \$900,000. This includes not only all appropriations made by General Assembly, but all its expenses, the salaries and expenses of all state officers and Judges and over \$130,000 interest on all public debt. The receipts on \$262,000,000 of property are figured at \$875,000. Included in these are the receipts for back taxes on the Wilmington and Weldon railway and the \$82,000 in the treasury. June 1st a new assessment of property is to be made and this will make up an apparent deficit of \$15,000.

The taxes for pensions will be over \$120,000 under the present revenue act. The school tax will be \$393,000 special. The general tax will be \$65,000. The special taxes are estimated at \$200,000.

This reduction of taxation, at the same time that the amount allowed for schools and pensions is increased, evidences a session of patient care, investigation and economy in husbanding the funds and resources of the state. Many believed that with the steady growth of population and increased demands upon the public treasury from all quarters the tax would necessarily be at the lowest 48 instead of 43 cents. There is a graduated income tax of one-fifth of one per cent. on incomes between \$1,000 and \$2,000, thence rising gradually on each additional thousand.

The taxes on building and loan associations as fixed by the revenue bill are as follows: On \$100,000 and over paid up capital, \$100; between \$50,000 and \$100,000, \$50; between \$25,000 and \$50,000, \$25; between \$25,000 and \$5,000, \$10; under \$5,000, \$5.

The tax on bank stock has been slightly increased and provisions made to secure the taxation on all stock of banks doing business in the state, even though the stock be held by non-residents.

PURCHASE TAX.

The section imposing the tax is as follows:

Every merchant, jeweller, grocer, druggist or other dealer who shall buy and sell goods, wares and merchandise of whatever name or description not specially taxed elsewhere in this act shall, in addition to his ad valorem tax on his stock, pay as a license on the total amount of purchases in or out of the state (except purchases of farm products from the producer) for cash, or on credit, whether such persons herein mentioned shall purchase as principal or through an agent or commission merchant, the following tax on his purchases for the preceding six months, to wit:

Those whose purchases are \$1,000 or less, 50 cents; between \$1,000 and \$2,000, \$1; between \$2,000 and \$5,000, \$2; between \$5,000 and \$10,000, \$5; between \$10,000 and \$20,000, \$8; between \$20,000 and \$40,000, \$12; between \$40,000 and \$60,000, \$16; between \$60,000 and \$80,000, \$20; on \$80,000 and above \$44.