



SUPPLEMENT

TO

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1878.

 Correspondence respecting the Award of the Halifax Fisheries Commission.

No. 1.

Mr. Evarts to Mr. Welsh.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Mr. Welsh, October 10, 1878.)

Sir,

Department of State, Washington, September 27, 1878.

I AM directed by the President to present to the attention of Her Majesty's Government the sentiments of this Government respecting the result of the deliberations of the Commission, lately sitting at Halifax, for the determination of the question submitted to it under the Articles of the Treaty of Washington relating to the fisheries. It is the purpose of the present communication to put you fully in possession of these sentiments that you may impart them to Lord Salisbury with the same frankness that they are disclosed to yourself.

It is a matter of sincere regret to the President that the actual result of the deliberations of this Commission has been such as to require from this Government the course of observation upon the same, which it becomes my duty to submit to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. For reasons of paramount importance to the interests of the two countries, in their future treatment of the subject of the fisheries, a candid statement of the views of this Government, as to the position in which the action of the Commission has placed those interests, is due alike to the British Government and ourselves. Nor are these views expressive only of the sentiments of the Executive Department of the Government. Upon the papers being laid before Congress for its necessary action, upon the question of making an appropriation from the Treasury to meet what should prove to be the proper obligations of the Government under the Treaty, Congress, with great unanimity, concurred with the Executive in the opinion that the attention of the British Government should be invited to the subject of the Award, as looked upon by this Government, in advance of the final action of the Executive in reference to its payment. Accordingly the sum appropriated by Congress to meet the Award