

## CLAIMS OF AMERICAN FISHERMEN

*Exchange of notes at Washington May 28, 1881*

*Entered into force May 28, 1881*

*Terminated on fulfillment of its terms*<sup>1</sup>

1881 For. Rel. 589

*The British Minister to the Secretary of State*

WASHINGTON, May 28, 1881 (Received May 28)

SIR: With reference to your note of the 6th instant, relating to the discussions which have recently taken place between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States with regard to the losses alleged to have been suffered by United States fishermen in Fortune Bay, Newfoundland, on the 6th of January 1878, in consequence of certain acts committed by natives of that colony, I have the honor to inform you that Her Majesty's Government is prepared to meet the views of the Government of the United States upon this matter by the payment of the sum of £15,000 sterling in full satisfaction of all claims for disturbance of American fishermen in their fishing operations on the coasts of Newfoundland and its dependencies up to the 4th of March last, including the occurrences at Aspee Bay, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, in the Dominion of Canada, a statement of which is made at pages 138 to 141, inclusive, of Ex. Doc. No. 84 of the second session of the House of Representatives of the Forty-sixth Congress.

It will, however, be clearly understood that the above-mentioned payment will be made without prejudice to any question of the rights of either of the two governments under Articles XVIII to XXV, both inclusive, and Article XXXII of the treaty of May 8, 1871,<sup>2</sup> between the United States and Great Britain.

I have, &c.,

EDW'D THORNTON

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<sup>1</sup> For an exchange of notes at Washington June 2 and 4, 1881, regarding payment and receipt of claim, see 1881 For. Rel. 591.

<sup>2</sup> TS 133, *ante*, p. 170.

*The Secretary of State to the British Minister*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, May 28, 1881*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of May 28, 1881, in which, referring to mine of the 6th, you convey the gratifying intelligence that Her Majesty's Government has accepted the terms of settlement agreed upon by us of the difficulties at Fortune Bay, occurring on the 6th of January, 1878.

The understanding of this government is, as you state, that the payment of £15,000 sterling is in full satisfaction of all claims for disturbances of American fishermen in their fishing operations on the coast of Newfoundland and its dependencies up to 4th of March last, including the occurrences at Aspee Bay, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, in the Dominion of Canada, a statement of which is made at pages 138 to 141, inclusive, of Ex. Doc. No. 84 of the House of Representatives of the Forty-sixth Congress.

This government also clearly understands that the above-mentioned payment will be made without prejudice to any question of the rights of either of the two governments under Articles XVIII to XXV, both inclusive, and Article XXXII of the treaty of May 8, 1871, between the United States and Great Britain.

You can advise me of the time and method of payment, which I leave to be settled by your own convenience.

I have, &c.,

JAMES G. BLAINE