

Colonial Office
Downing St.

My Dear Doctor,

I am very glad to have your letter, and to learn that you still retain your interest in Behring Sea and the 'Great Seal'. Alone of all the gang who used to foregather in the Conference Room at the F.O. and the Chancery at Paris, I am ~~still~~ the only one now perforce officially concerned in the Seal and for my sins I fear am likely to remain so.

Your opinion on the present phase
of the question which is now that
of the well informed outsider -
a rare individual - is therefore
doubly interesting to me, and I am
much indebted to you for it.

I have no doubt it is due to your
unofficial pressure that the Dominion
Govt has at last awoken to the
importance of independent investigations.
It is two years nearly since we began
to impress it on them officially, as
we saw that our Yankee friends were
beginning to get up a case, and

to follow their usual game of
exciting the public through the press,
~~of~~ as to the approaching extermin-
ation of the seal, but we preached
to deaf ears. Last summer when
Robinson was over here, I strongly
impressed on him our views of the
necessity - even in view of the
five years revision of the regulations
of having a series of continuous
observations both on the Island & at
sea, and the shortsightedness of the
Canadian Govt in refusing to
make any proposals in that

direction in response to our
invitations. He quite agreed with
me and promised to see you
and Tupper on his return, but
so far as we knew nothing came
of it. With the end of the year
came a deluge of appalling state-
ments from the U.S. as to the
awful mortality amongst the pups
on the Islands both in 1894 and 95.

We had absolutely nothing to meet
them with which would have
had much weight with the public,
which after all is the final tribunal
in these matters, and we had to

Shave them off as we might with some
logic chopping & hashing up of old
figures. That could not go on, and
as Canada had told us they were
perfectly satisfied with the infor-
mation they had and saw no
reason for getting any more, we
had perforce to take the bull
by the horns and take what
steps we could to get some
independent information as to
the operation of the regulations,
which would enable us to
judge of the necessity of the
Demand for immediate

revision and at the same time
give us something to work upon
for the proposed revision, which
if it is to come into force at
the beginning of 1899, must be
put on the anvil a long time
ahead. Certainly not much later
than the end of the season of 1897,
the beginning of which will be
upon us in a few months.

When the Govt made up their
minds to send out men from
here, we had some difficulty in
getting them, but thanks to Flower
of the Museum, we managed to

get two men - both used to the question
and likely to give us an unbiased
and unprejudiced opinion - though
we were careful to tell them both
that it was facts not opinions we
desired, and that whatever opinions
they did form they were to keep
strictly to themselves till they could
convey them to us confidentially.

Grande who was with us for a
short time at the beginning of the
year suggested that the pumpjack
steamer was the best way of running
them up, and it was that means
of conveyance we had in mind

When the expedition was proposed.

The persons who were to go would in any case have to live at the Company's establishment; and their taking a passage in the Company's Steamer for which payment had of course have been made appeared to us a mere matter of business. Unfortunately the earlier vessels had left, and we had ordered a man of war to go when the U.S. offered the 'Albatross', which it would have been churlish to refuse, and indeed I venture to think a refusal would have done more to prejudice our case and the result of our investigations

than the risk of the continuation
of our observers. Thompson was
instructed to go to Washington, as
the U.S. offered to place all the
information they had at his dis-
posal, but we also asked that
Maclean should be there at
the time, and instructed Thom-
pson that a visit to Ottawa
was equally important. The visit
arrangement organized by the
Yankees at the last moment was
a clever move, which perhaps
we had not expected, as we
knew they had already had a

supply of naturalists on the job
span the first. But our men
have no sanction & will not
get any. They have gone to collect
information for H. W. Cook. in
the best way they can, they have
one of H. W. Cook's at their dis-
posal if they want it or think
fit to use it, and we have
offered the U.S. to pay half
the cost of the 'Albatross' to
avoid any prejudice from the
acceptance of their hospitality.

Your letter is the first we
have heard of any 'Jap' experts

'men in buckram' or 'men in
broad cloth'. Thompson has
written me twice since he
started - once from Seattle,
and once from 'Alert Bay' but
has not on either occasion made
any mention of a jaf contingent.

The U.S. have already proposed
more than 18 months ago a
quadrilateral investigation -
and met with a very plain
refusal from us, and a straight
tip that we would settle
our difficulties with Russia
ourselves without their mediation.

and assistance. The proposal
has not been repeated, and in
face of our former very plain
'no' I do not see that it
it can, or at all events that
it can be repeated with any
hope that it will be accepted.

We are not pledged in any
way to immediate revision, and
whether we go in for that or
not will depend not on the
reports of U.S. naturalists
whose patriotic vision we
know well, but on that of
our own men, whose bias
if any will be all the other way.

If they come back and report to us that it is quite true that every Seal mother killed in Beh. Sea means a dead pup on the Islands, and that Extirmination is not a mere figment of an imaginative Yankee, but an imminent 'actuality', it would be impossible to refuse immediate revision, ~~there is~~ ^{or even to} ~~parley~~ and all for further investigation.

We have to face the facts, and one of them is this that public opinion will not allow Extirmination to go uncondemned, and as it is by

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We have to face the facts, and one of them is this that public opinion will not allow Extirmination to go uncondemned, and as it is by

information collected & prepared for them by naturalists, and that all facts about 'Surplus males' etc must be set aside, and the matter struck out from the standpoint of mutual interest.

It is a pity from this point of view that the B. C. Sealers shd have concluded any prejudice against our people. Manspau spoke very highly of them in his letters to me, and appeared to have

Get on very well with them.

I hope therefore you will find that matters are not so bad in that direction after all. In any case Macaulay is there to keep things straight, and the man you have sent on the "Seaward" will also be able to produce valuable evidence.

I hope you will excuse this interminable Epistle, but I think it right to let you know exactly how matters stand. How the

refusal of gr East to do anything
till apparently moved by you
& Vining this spring has handi-
capped us, & the fact that
they had changed their mind
did not reach us till we were
already searching for whom
to go from here. They knew as
well as we did what was going
on, and though the interest
is primarily theirs we should
have been ready to accept
any proposals they made, if
all reasonable. They made
none & we had to do the

but we could to get at the
'other side' of the question for
ourselves. If what we have
done is not all that it sho
have been or might have
been, that is due to cir-
cumstances which we could
not foresee or control.

If there is to be a revision,
I have no doubt you will
be pressed into it again,
and I have no fear that
any negotiator with
you at his elbow will

Give in to any impracticable
or unreasonable proposals
however speciously backed
by the evidence of the
1st wise men of the West.
With kind regards.

I am,

Yrs very truly,

John Anderson

9th Aug. 96.

I am sorry to find that
this was not posted when it
shd have been. Ek. 31.0

J. Anderson