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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1897.

RESULTS OF THE BERING SEA CONFERENCES.

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THE Fur-Seal Conferences recently held at Washington by representatives of the governments of Great Britain, Russia, Japan and the United States are noteworthy in several respects. The high character and fitness of the delegates, the rapidity with which the negotiations were carried to a successful conclusion, and the essential agreement reached on the principal points under discussion, are matters for international congratulation. It will be remembered that Great Britain declined to take part in a joint conference in which Russia and Japan were to be represented. This led to the holding of two distinct conferences—the first with Russia and Japan ; the second with Great Britain and Canada. In the first there were few if any points of dispute, and an agreement was promptly reached whereby the governments of the United States, Russia and Japan pledged themselves to desist from pelagic sealing for a period of one year, pending subsequent negotiations.

In the second conference the conditions were entirely different, the matters under discussion between Great Britain and the

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