

DISCUSSED THE CANAL TREATY.

Conclusions Reached by British Cabinet Yesterday May Be Communicated to Mr. Choate Monday.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—In spite of the great secrecy with which the deliberations of the Cabinet are always guarded, it can be asserted that one of the subjects under discussion at yesterday's meeting was a dispatch from Lord Pauncefote which, it is understood, dealt with the probable attitude of the United States toward Great Britain's counter proposals in the Nicaragua Canal matter. Inquiries in official quarters as to whether the Nicaragua or China questions were even mentioned met with the inevitable non-committal answer that all the proceedings of the Cabinet are carried on with the strictest privacy, and that it is impossible to admit the truth or falsity of suppositions regarding even the general nature of affairs discussed.

As the official action resulting from yesterday's meeting has not yet had time to take definite shape, it is impossible to say what conclusions were reached. United States Ambassador Choate will probably be summoned to the Foreign Office next Monday, when Lord Lansdowne is likely to communicate to him the British views regarding the Nicaragua and China controversies. No expectation need be entertained that this interview will settle one way or the other the Nicaragua Canal difficulty.

Great Britain has no intention of ratifying the Hay-Pauncefote treaty in the form desired by the Senate, unless her counter proposals are agreed to within the short time which remains before that treaty lapses, and this is recognized to be almost impossible.

Further information was desired from Lord Pauncefote, and at the request of Lord Lansdowne he sent the dispatch which was discussed yesterday. There is no reason to believe that it has affected the decision previously announced in these dispatches, that the British Government has decided not to give in to the demands of the Senate without a quid pro quo.