

1870
(42)

STATEMENT

Of Facts,—with reference to the Seizure of the Steam Barge REINDEER,
of Wallaceburg, at the St. Clair Flats, also the Wood Barge CAMPBELL.

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1st. The said Barges are owned by Hiram Little, of Wallaceburg, in the County of Kent and Province of Ontario.

2nd. The said Steam Barge is twenty-three tons burden, propelled by a Propeller Steam Engine, is of the value of \$2,300, the said Wood Barge is of the value of \$266.

3rd. That the said Steam and Wood Barges took on a cargo of cordwood, at the River Sydenham, in the County of Kent, to be discharged at the St. Clair Flats, at the Works, or Canal now in course of construction, by John Brown, for and on account of the American Government.

4th. That on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of June last past, the said two Barges arrived at the Canal or Channel now in course of construction, and on the westerly side thereof discharged their cargo of cordwood, which wood was for the said Brown, and to be used for and in the construction of said Canal, the said two cargoes amounting to fifty-eight cords.

5th. That, while the said Barges were in the act of discharging their cargo, three Revenue Officers from the City of Detroit, in the State of Michigan, seized the said two Barges and their cargo, and on the twenty-seventh day of June, being the next day after the seizure, the said Hiram Little proceeded from Wallaceburg to where the said Barges were seized, and, upon arriving there, was arrested by the said officials; and he, and the said Barges, and the men in his (Little's) employ, were taken to the City of Detroit under the charge of smuggling wood.

6th. That upon arriving at Detroit, a Ship Keeper was put in charge by Mr. Jerome, the Collector of Customs.

7th. That the said Collector of the Port of Detroit, suggested that Bonds should be given to the amount of \$3,000,—\$2,500 being for the Barges and \$500 for costs. After considerable difficulty, I procured the necessary Bondsmen, and released my said Barges, and as to myself—I was released without bail.

8th. That I am advised and believe, from the best information that I can obtain from charts used by mariners navigating the Rivers and Lakes, and on reference to the Report of the joint Commission of Messrs. Barclay and Porter, bearing date in the year 1822, that my said Barges were discharging their cargoes,—and were seized—within Canadian Territory; and in order the better to understand the position of the said Canal or Channel, and the position of said Barges when seized, I have caused a Diagram thereof to be made and annexed hereto.

9th. That the said Canal or Channel is not completed, and is only used by crafts supplying material used in the construction thereof; and that the principal part or portion of the material used in the construction of said Canal has been procured in Canada, and until the occurrence aforesaid no duty has been demanded thereon.

Dated at Wallaceburg this 4th day of July, A. D., 1870.

HIRAM LITTLE.