

I inclose, for your information and guidance, various documents bearing on the subject. You will learn from them that Her Majesty's Government do not desire that Imperial officers should take any active part against American fishing-vessels, and you will have understood from our conversation of this morning that I would wish you to consider the cruise on which you are about to proceed as one of observation, and not of interference.

Only in the extreme case of actual resistance on the part of United States' fishermen to the legitimate use by the Canadian authorities of the powers with which they are legally invested should you act, and that duty I with confidence rely upon your judgment in performing with the utmost moderation and forbearance.

You are to rejoin my flag at Halifax when you will have executed the service on which you are about to proceed, keeping me informed of your movements as opportunities offer.

(Signed) ALGERNON LYONS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 24.

*Draft of Letter from Colonial Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Downing Street, October 1887.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, inclosing a copy of a letter from the Commander-in-chief on the North American and West Indian Station, forwarding copy of the instructions given to Captain Beaumont of Her Majesty's ship "Canada" respecting the support to be given by Her Majesty's ships to Canadian officers engaged in the protection of the fisheries.

I am to point out, in reply, that Admiral Lyons' instructions do not exactly follow the terms suggested in the letter from this Department of the 6th July last. On reference to that letter it will be seen that not only was it intended that Her Majesty's ships should act in cases of actual resistance to the Canadian authorities on the part of United States' vessels, but that they should be authorized to seize on their own initiative vessels committing the offence of fishing within 3 miles of land.

As, however, the present fishing season is now practically over, Sir H. Holland does not propose that the instructions issued by Admiral Lyons should be altered.

I am, &c.

No. 25.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.*

(No. 72. Treaty.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, October 20, 1887, 5.35 P.M.*

FISHERIES: Terms of reference.

Please send answer immediately by telegram to my telegram of the 15th instant.

No. 26.

*Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury. — (Received October 21.)*

(Treaty.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Washington, October 20, 1887.*

YOUR telegram of 15th.

Secretary of State has no objection to omission of the words "in the course of negotiations" in terms of reference.