

(2.)

*Vladivostock, August 15, 1888.*

Will forward protest sworn to before Consul at Nagasaki: also all documents pertaining to seizure. Please advise if necessary to protest here. Also of other steps required here. Owners' names: Hall and Goepel, Victoria.

*Answer.*

Your case has been brought to the notice of Russian Government, who have telegraphed to inquire into it. You might protest locally. Forward all documents here.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 4.

*Diagram illustrating Position of Schooner "Araunah" at time of Seizure.*

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Inclosure 5 in No. 4.

*Mr. Siewerd to Mr. Dering.*

Dear Sir,

*August 27, 1888.*

REGARDING the seizure of the British sealing schooner "Araunah," of Victoria, British Columbia, by M. Grebnitzky in the Russian merchantman "Alexander II," for alleged violation of the Fishing and Hunting Laws of the Imperial Russian Government, of which I informed you in my telegraphic despatch of the 9th August, 1888, from Vladivostock, I now respectfully submit the following facts:—

On the 1st July, 1888, at 6:30 A.M., during a heavy fog and calm, I calculated the schooner's position to be 16 miles south by west of the southern extremity of Copper or Medney Island. Judging myself in the open waters of the North Pacific Ocean, I ordered the canoes for hunting. At about 7:30 A.M. the fog lifted, when the schooner was found to be east by south, about 6 to 8 miles distant from the southern extremity of the island, with the canoes out to the south and west of the schooner. When in this position a steamer was sighted, which bore at once down upon us, proving the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer "Alexander II," flying at peak the Russian merchant ensign, and at maintop a green flag with white cross.

When near, the schooner was hailed, and I, the master was asked to come aboard the steamer, which I did. When on steamer's deck, I was informed by M. Grebnitzky that he would confiscate the schooner for being within the limit. This I denied, but was answered that the boundary ran from Cape Lopatka to the Island of Atton, and that I could protest against the seizure to authorities at Vladivostock, where the case would be forwarded.

As the officer produced no documentary evidence of his authority, I asked upon what authority the seizure was made, in answer to which the officer pointed to the flag at maintop, saying, "There is my authority."

The officer and crew of schooner were then made prisoners, and transferred aboard steamer "Alexander II." The schooner was towed to the Settlement Glinka on Copper Island, where the skins, 133, were landed at Company's warehouse. Here I had to deliver the schooner's papers to Officer Grebnitzky. Before doing so I demanded a paper stating the reason of confiscation, which I forward herewith, and a copy of which I was asked to sign after it having been translated to me by M. J. Mallinvensky to read in substance.

That this day the schooner "Araunah" had been confiscated for hunting within the limits of the Russian possessions.

I hereby notified M. Grebnitzky, in presence of M. J. Mallinvensky, of my protest against the seizure, which protest I would make before the nearest Representative of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and, in accordance with advice in your telegraphic despatch of 15th August, 1888, have protested to Admiral and Governor of Vladivostock, the certified copy of which I send herewith.

The schooner was then brought to Petropaulovski by a crew of the steamer "Alexander," where, upon the arrival of the schooner, the salt, stores, provisions, and also part of personal property of crew, were sold by M. Grebnitzky without the confiscation having been declared legal by any authority other than his own. I must add that we had no intention whatever to violate the laws of the Imperial Russian Government, but intended to follow the hunting in the waters of the North Pacific