

to suffer for food, it was not his intention to allow American vessels to fish until all their provisions were exhausted, and then play upon Canadian sympathy for a fresh supply. The Minister said he had not received details of the "Souris" seizure, but if the men were shipped outside the limit, as alleged by the skipper of the "Perkins," he thought the matter could be amicably adjusted.

The gathering was mutually agreeable, and will doubtless result in more pleasant relations in the future than those which have hitherto prevailed. But while interest attached to the seizure and the conference, by far the greatest interest centred in the current report that Secretary of the Navy Whitney has telegraphed Admiral Luce to withdraw all Circulars or Memoranda of Instructions that he may have authorized or issued to American fishermen. This includes the Memoranda a summary of which was telegraphed the "Sun." It is understood the instructions to fishermen were issued upon Admiral Luce's personal responsibility, and without authority from the Navy Department or the advice or approval of Consul Phelan. There was no authorized joint action between them. Admiral Luce was anxious, it is understood, to ascertain what Canadian laws are, and to furnish a plain and simple summary of the same for the guidance of Americans which would prevent their falling a prey to Canadian officials. This is what he did, but such a statement of Canadian law, which American fishermen were urged to strictly obey in default of losing the confidence and support of the American Government and American nation, was in direct contradiction of almost every position assumed by Secretary Bayard in his correspondence with Lord Salisbury, and of the base upon which Congress enacted the Retaliatory Law last Session. Hence Admiral Luce's well-meaning effort to befriend American fishermen has been interfered with.

The British war ships now in the North American waters are to take a hand in settling the fisheries troubles. This announcement was made late last night, and has caused genuine surprise on all sides. It is the first time that the British authorities have interfered in the fisheries fight, and the unexpected change of policy occasions no little anxiety among Americans here. They do not know what to make of it. The men-of-war will not act as patrols only to keep American fishermen outside the forbidden waters, but will make seizures when they cross the line. There are three war ships available for the service at this moment—Admiral Lyons' flag-ship, the "Bellerophon," the "Canada," and the "Pylades." These vessels are now in Halifax Harbour.

The present intention is to send the ships early next week to the Gulf of St. Lawrence to reinforce the five Canadian cruisers already there. It is not likely that more than three war ships will be put at the work of seizing Yankees, but, if it should be considered advisable, as many more can be ordered into these waters from Newfoundland and Bermuda at a few days' notice.

Admiral Luce authorizes the following statement in regard to the Circular which he issued, giving instructions to American fishermen:—

"My position is easily defined. It is understood by common report that the United States' Government and that of Great Britain are now negotiating for a settlement of the Fisheries questions. Pending these negotiations it is the part of the United States' vessels of war in Canadian waters to avoid doing anything that might even harass our Government or add to the complications of the various questions at issue.

"The ships of the North Atlantic squadron were not sent to the Gulf of St. Lawrence to prevent by force the seizure of American fishermen by Dominion cruisers for alleged violation of laws for the protection of the inshore fisheries, but rather to render such moral support as the mere presence of our ships might afford. In the event of a seizure of an American fishing-vessel for an alleged violation of the laws of the Dominion the case must be fought out in the Courts, not by the Dominion cruiser and a vessel of war of the United States. This is not abating one jot or one tittle of the American side of the question, for if the Dominion Courts find in opposition to the claim of the United States, then the case can be taken up by our Government and submitted, if necessary, to arbitration. The appeal to arms, as some of our newspapers suggest, is supposed to be the measure of last resort.

"Had the entire United States' navy been present on the 1st September, 1886, it could not have legally prevented the seizures by a very small Dominion cruiser of the "Highland Light" for fishing within the 3-mile limit. However tenaciously we may uphold the justice of the American side of the question, it has not saved the cases of the "David J. Adams" and "Ellen M. Doughty" from dragging through the Courts now for over a year. And whatever may be the decision in those cases, the