

[Enclosure No. 2.]

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.

WASHINGTON, 22nd August, 1887.

MY LORD,—Since writing my preceding despatch I have received privately from Mr. Bayard copies of the reports of Captain Shepard, alluded to therein, respecting the seizure of the British vessels "Anna Beck," "W. P. Sayward," "Dolphin" and "Grace," copies of which I have the honor to enclose to Your Lordship herewith.

The State Department is not in possession of any further information.

I have, &c.,

L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

P. S.—I have communicated copies of Captain Shepard's reports to the Governor General of Canada.

L. S. S. W.

Lord Lansdowne to Sir Henry Holland.

(Telegram.)

23rd September, 1887.

I understand that after Mr. Bayard's announcement of the 3rd February respecting Behring Sea seizures instructions were sent in accordance with it to the Alaska authorities by telegraph that an instrument for the release of the vessels was thereupon issued by the district judge, but that subsequently, on the assumption that the telegram was forged, he rescinded the order; that no steps have been taken by the department since; the vessels are still detained. My Government trusts the facts will be enquired into.

No. 372.

Lord Lansdowne to Sir H. T. Holland.

QUEBEC, 26th September, 1887.

SIR,—In continuation of my despatch No. 338 of the 27th of August, and in reference to previous correspondence, I have the honor to enclose herewith No. 11. a copy of an approved Minute of the Privy Council of Canada, dated 21st of September, 1887, covering copies of a report of my Minister of Marine and Fisheries relating to the seizure and detention of the Canadian sealing schooner "Alfred Adams," and of other Canadian sealing vessels by the United States authorities in the Behring Sea.

The letter directed to the United States District Attorney at Sitka, marked "D" in the Minister's report, which came into the possession of my Government under the circumstances described in the declaration of Captain Dyer, of the "Alfred Adams," has been forwarded, together with copies of the papers, to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington.

The circumstances under which the "Adams" was seized do not differ materially from those attending previous seizures in the same waters. I have already laid before you the reasons which have led my Government to protest against the assumption that the statutes under which other seizures, and I presume this also, have been made. Statutes governing the conduct of persons fishing within "the territory of Alaska" or "in the waters thereof" [*vide* U. S. Revised Statutes, 1,955-1,956] are applicable to the whole of the waters of the Behring Sea; and in cases where, as in those under discussion, the vessels seized were found fishing at a great distance from the nearest land.

I trust that the earnest attention of Her Majesty's Government will be given to the statements contained in the Minister's report. No satisfactory explanation has yet been given of the action of the United States Government subsequent to Mr. Bayard's announcement of 3rd February, of the present year, when it was stated by