

sustained by the owners of the "Araunah" in consequence of this seizure in the open sea.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

JOHN J. MCGEE, Clerk,
Privy Council.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Messrs. Hall, Goepel, and Co. to the Hon. J. A. Chaplean.

*Government House, Victoria, British Columbia,
September 21, 1888.*

Sir,

WE have the honour to transmit herewith certain documents and facts in connection with the seizure of our schooner "Araunah," on the 1st July last, for alleged violation of the Fishing and Hunting Laws of the Imperial Russian Government, by the Russian merchant-steamer "Alexander II," whilst in the prosecution of her legitimate calling as a sealing-schooner in the Behring's Sea, and which we respectfully urge is a part of the North Pacific Ocean, and open to the vessels of all nations. The clear and comprehensive letter statement on protest of Captain Siewerd, his mate and crew, addressed to Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg, and sworn to before Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Nagasaki, Japan, clearly sets forth an epitome of the circumstances attending the illegal seizure of our vessel, properly registered as a Canadian vessel, and flying the British flag, and leaves but little for us to add in connection therewith.

Inclosed will also be found copies of the telegrams that passed between the master of our vessel and the British Embassy at St. Petersburg, and by which we are assured that steps would be taken, with least delay possible, in the direction desired, and that the Russian Government had been duly apprised of the seizure and its circumstances.

Although everything has been done by the master that could reasonably be expected to place the matter in the proper and most direct channel for investigation, restitution, and protection of British interests upon the high seas, still we deem it expedient to promptly report to the Federal Government at Ottawa, through you, the fact of the seizure (and what has been done to date) of our schooner whilst registered under the laws of the Dominion of Canada, with the full belief that his Excellency the Governor-General in Council will cause such steps to be taken as will grant the relief and restitution which it is our pride and privilege to claim as loyal subjects of Her Majesty.

In due course we shall forward a statement of claim of our loss against the Russian Government or whom it may concern.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

HALL, GOEPEL, AND CO.,
Owners of Schooner "Araunah."

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

Telegrams from Mr. Siewerd, Master of Schooner "Araunah," to the British Embassy at St. Petersburg, and the Replies to same.

(1.)

Vladivostock, August 9, 1888.

SEALING schooner "Araunah," of Victoria, was set during a heavy fog and calm by current within 6 miles of southern extreme of Copper Island, when seized by Russian merchantman "Alexander II." Left here with crew. among them twelve Vancouver Indians, unprovided. Please advise.

Answer.

Your telegram received. Steps will be taken with least delay possible.
