

they have a right to take fish wherever they find them. No, not within 3 miles of the shore. They say it is hard to miss a big school of 100 barrels just because it is 40 rods within the line. True, the temptation is a strong one for a captain who is in a hurry to load up and get to a market. Human nature is weak under those circumstances, and this is precisely what Sir John depends on to carry his point. He is only too glad of a chance to pounce on a vessel and to exact a fine or confiscate the whole thing. He likes nothing better.

To make matters worse, the mackerel, which have had the decency to keep in deep water for a dozen years, have suddenly taken it into their heads to school inshore. Last year and this year they have devoted themselves to that eccentricity. Our captains, though, have only themselves to blame if they openly infringe on the stipulated conditions. Outside of the 3-mile limit they are all right and can laugh at the cruizers; inside of that limit they render themselves liable to seizure and have no redress.

It's a long lane that has no turning. Canada will come to her senses after a while and then we can make a bargain in which both she and we will be gainers.

No. 114.

Sir L. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 74. Treaty.)

My Lord,

Washington, August 8, 1887.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship correspondence which has appeared in the "New York Herald" respecting more especially the steps taken by the American Admiral to warn American fishermen against infringing Canadian Regulations which have not been approved by the Secretary of the Navy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Extract from the New York "Sun" of August 8, 1887.

THE FISHERIES DISPUTE.—*Halifax, August 7.*—Considerable excitement prevailed here yesterday over the latest seizure at Souris, which is now reported to be not only for an offence against the Customs Laws, but also for a violation of the Treaty of 1818, and to be such a serious case as to require the immediate presence of Consul-General Phelan. Great interest also attaches to a conference which took place yesterday between the Minister of Fisheries, Rear-Admiral Luce, Consul-General Phelan, and Captain Scott. The conference occurred on board the United States' flag-ship "Richmond," and lasted over an hour. It is understood that circumstances connected with recent seizures, the administration of Canadian Customs Regulations, the rights of American fishermen in Canadian waters, the statement of questions by Admiral Luce and Captain Scott's replies thereto, and other matters were freely and frankly discussed, though purely informally. The result is that this interchange of views has caused such a personal understanding to be arrived at as will materially aid in solving a number of knotty points hitherto a source of annoyance and irritation, and to tend to simplify affairs in the future.

Regarding the cases of the Gloucester schooners, "Argonaut" and "French," Minister Foster declared it to be the intention of the Canadian authorities to capture those vessels wherever they could find them, either inside the Canadian limits or on the high seas outside the territorial waters of the United States. He argued that the vessels, upon the admission of their crews, had clearly been guilty of violating the Treaty, and therefore were liable to forfeiture; and a forfeited vessel could be taken anywhere outside the territorial waters of another Power. Both Admiral Luce and Consul-General Phelan strongly dissented from this view, and emphatically expressed their opinions that the United States would never permit those vessels to be taken outside the territorial waters of Canada.

Regarding the supply of necessaries of life to American vessels coming in from the Banks destitute, the Minister explained that while no vessel would be permitted