

MEMORANDUM

IN

RELATION TO THE SEIZURE OF VESSELS BELONGING TO J. & C. NOBLE. PREPARED IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE REFUSAL OF THE COMMISSIONER TO HEAR ARGUMENT AT THE CLOSE OF COMMISSION FOR INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES AGAINST THE SAID NOBLES.

On the 8th and 9th days of May, 1894, four steam tugs and a number of sail boats which belonged or were supposed to belong to J. & C. Noble, of Killarney, were seized by Fishery Overseer Elliott at Squaw Island and Byng Inlet on the Georgian Bay. This seizure was made under instructions from the Department of Marine and Fisheries to the F.O., in answer to a telegram from him advising the Department that the Nobles were then fishing without a license.

During the following month two charges were laid against them for fishing without a license, and they were brought before Police Magistrate Burden on or about June 24th, 1894, when one of the charges was withdrawn, and upon the other a fine of \$5.00 was imposed.

The tugs and boats seized, which were of a value of several thousand dollars were not returned, the said sail boats being sold by private sale without notice to the Nobles, and the tugs being advertised for sale by tender, which sale has been postponed from time to time.

The Nobles have not only lost the season of 1894 but their business has been ruined, their trade has been turned into the hands of a rival Company and it has become known over the whole territory through which their business extends that fishermen dealing with them cannot expect fair treatment at the hands of the F. O. The Nobles have stated upon oath that the loss inflicted upon them by the action of the F. O. amounts to no less than \$25,000. As soon as it became known that the seizure had been made, the Nobles represented to the Depart-