

[Enclosure No. 4.]

*Mr. Secretary Bayard to Sir L. West.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, 12th April, 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your note of 4th instant, relative to the fisheries in Behring's Sea, and inquiring whether the documents referred to in my note of 3rd February, relating to the cases of seizure in those waters of vessels charged with violating the laws of the United States regulating the killing of fur seals, had been received. The records of the judicial proceedings in the cases in the District Court in Alaska referred to were only received at this department on Saturday last, and are now under examination.

The remoteness of the scene of the fur seal fisheries, and the special peculiarities of that industry, have unavoidably delayed the Treasury officials in framing regulations and issuing orders to United States vessels to police the Alaskan waters for the protection of the fur seals from indiscriminate slaughter and consequent speedy extermination.

The laws of the United States in this behalf are contained in the Revised Statutes relating to Alaska, in section 1956-1971, and have been in force for upwards of 17 years, and prior to the seizures of last summer but a single infraction is known to have occurred, and that was promptly punished.

The question of instructions to Government vessels in regard to preventing the indiscriminate killing of fur seals, is now being considered, and I will inform you at the earliest day possible what has been decided, so that British and other vessels visiting the waters in question can govern themselves accordingly.

I have, &c.,

T. F. BAYARD.

Hon. Sir L. WEST, &c., &c., &c.

## ANNEX.

### CHAPTER III.

#### *Provisions relating to the Unorganized Territory of Alaska.*

Section.

- 1954. Customs, &c., laws extended to Alaska.
- 1955. Importation of fire-arms and distilled spirits may be prohibited.
- 1956. Killing of fur-bearing animals prohibited.
- 1957. What courts to have jurisdiction of offences.
- 1958. Remission of fines, &c.
- 1959. Saint Paul and Saint George Islands declared special reservations.
- 1960. Killing of seal upon them prohibited except in certain months.
- 1961. Killing of certain seal prohibited.
- 1962. Limit to number of seals to be killed.
- 1963. Right to take seal may be leased.
- 1964. Bond.
- 1965. Who may lease.
- 1966. Covenants in lease.
- 1967. Penalty.
- 1968. Penalty upon leases.
- 1969. Tax upon seal skins.
- 1970. Lease may be terminated.
- 1971. Lessees to furnish copies to masters of their vessels.
- 1972. Certain sections may be altered.
- 1973. Agents and assistants to manage seal fisheries.
- 1974. Their pay, &c.
- 1975. Not to be interested in right to take seals.
- 1976. Agents may administer certain oaths and take testimony.