

Q. What were you doing and what occurred on the 1st day of August last in the line of your duty? A. I was cruising in Behring Sea about 70 miles south south-east from St. George Island in about latitude and longitude . I found the four boats of the British steam schooner "Thornton," of Victoria, B.C., engaged in killing fur seal. Each boat had in her from three to eight freshly killed seal, arms and ammunition, rowers and hunters who stated that they belonged to the said schooner "Thornton" and were engaged in taking or killing fur seal. Some of them, if not all, were seen shooting at the fur seal which were swimming in their neighborhood. On this evidence I caused the vessel to be seized by Lieut. Cantwell, took her in tow and proceeded with her to Oonalaska where I placed the vessel, cargo, tackle, furniture and appurtenances in charge of Deputy United States Marshal Isaac Anderson of Oonalaska; the cargo of fur seal skins being stored in "Keuch," in one of the warehouses of the Alaska Commercial Company and under seal. One boat of the "Thornton" was sent to Sitka by the schooner San Diego and placed in custody of the United States marshal at Sitka. All of this property is now in the custody of the United States marshal at Sitka, including her arms and ammunition which I brought to Sitka on the "Corwin."

Q. Was this the vessel against which the libel of information is filed? A. It is.

Q. Did this all occur within the waters of Alaska and the Territory of Alaska and within the jurisdiction of this court? A. It did.

Q. Did this occur within the waters of the sea navigable for vessels of ten tons burden or over? A. It did.

C. A. ABBEY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this }
9th day of September, A.D. 1886; after }
having been read over by me to deponent. }

[SEAL.]

ANDREW T. LEWIS, *Clerk United States District Court.*

Lieut. John C. CANTWELL, being duly sworn, deposes and says:—

Q. State your name, occupation and age? A. John C. Cantwell, 3rd lieutenant United States revenue marine service, at present on duty United States revenue steamer "Corwin" and over the age of twenty-one years.

Q. Were you so on the 1st day of August last? A. I was.

Q. State what occurred on that day in the line of your duty? A. I saw a small boat on the port bow; we came up to her and found she had about 8 fur seal on board. The men in the boat were armed with breach-loading rifles. In answer to the commanding officer the men admitted they were killing fur seal. Shortly after we picked up a second boat and then sighted the schooner "Thornton." There were dead seal in the second boat. I did not examine the other boats, I was sent on board the schooner, saw Hans Guttormsen apparently acting as captain and Henry Norman as mate. I asked them what they were doing. The captain replied, Catching seals. I signaled this to Captain Abbey, who directed me to seize her, which I did and the "Corwin" took the schooner in tow. The fur seal in the boats were bleeding and must have been killed within a few hours.

Q. How many men were on board of the "Thornton" at the time of seizure? A. About fifteen.

Q. Was this a reasonable number for ordinary purposes of commerce and navigation? A. It was an unusually large number for the size of the vessel.

Q. Do you recognize this paper? A. I do. It is the official inventory made by me of the furniture, tackle, and cargo of the schooner "Thornton." (Inventory embraces the usual furniture, rigging, nautical instruments, boats and stores of a vessel of this class with a cargo of 403 seal skins, 3 seal pup skins and one hair seal skin, and they are receipted for by I. Anderson, Deputy United States marshal, Oonalaska, 14th August, 1886.) The item 403 seal skins mentioned in the inventory are fur seal skins. This inventory gives a full and correct list of all the furniture, tackle and cargo of said vessel, with the exception of the following:—Arms and ammunition, octant and one chronometer. There is one boat belonging to the