

The Committee advise that the Secretary of State be authorized to transmit a copy of this Minute to the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia for the information of his Government.

All which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE, *Clerk Privy Council.*

[Enclosure No. 3.]

HARRISON HOT SPRINGS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 15th September, 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a Minute of my Executive Council, approved by me on the ninth instant, representing the value to the Province of British Columbia of the present sealing industry in Behring Sea, the number of vessels, men, &c, engaged in the same, the loss to the Province certain to ensue from the destruction of this trade by the seizures and confiscations made by the United States cruisers. That the rights of British subjects should have the same protection and consideration on the Pacific as on the Atlantic, and that full compensation and redress for injuries already received, and assurances of future non-interference should be obtained from the United States Government.

That this question should be included in the scope of the duties of the International Fishery Commission now understood to be in process of organization, and that it is desirable said commission should hold some of its sittings in Victoria, for reasons therein set forth, &c.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

HUGH NELSON, *Lieutenant Governor.*

The Honorable the Secretary of State, Ottawa.

[Enclosure No. 4.]

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor on the 9th day of September, 1887.*

On a memorandum from the Honorable the Minister of Finance and Agriculture, dated the 6th September, 1887, setting forth:—

That there are usually engaged in seal fishing in Behring Sea seventeen vessels wholly owned by people residing in this city, of the aggregate value of \$125,000.

That the outfit for each semi-annual voyage of these vessels represents an expenditure of \$75,000, equal to \$150,000 a year.

That each of these vessels, on an average, employs a crew of five whites and about twenty Indians or fifteen to eighteen whites as hunters.

That the probable aggregate value of the product of each voyage is \$200,000, or \$400,000 a year.

That this industry, though as yet only in its infancy, is a very important one for so small a community.

That the glaring and unlawful seizures and confiscations in Behring Sea during last season, and the present year, are completely crushing out this infant industry and causing ruin, and in several known instances, actual distress to those who have invested their all in the business and relied upon it for a livelihood.

That the destruction of this industry not only entails ruin and distress upon those directly engaged therein, but it affects most injuriously the trade of the Province, and drives from these waters a race of hardy and adventurous fishermen, who, with their families, are large consumers, and who would in time become a very important element of strength, if not the nucleus of the future navy of Canada on the Pacific.

That the rights and interests of British subjects, whether in fisheries or in commerce, are entitled to the same consideration and protection on the Pacific as on the Atlantic, and that it is, therefore, the duty of the Dominion Government to employ every proper means for obtaining immediate and full compensation and redress for past injuries and wrongs as well as to guard against the possibility of a repetition of these high-handed outrages in the future.