

[Enclosure No. 9g.]

*Messrs Drake, Jackson, & Helmcken to Minister of Justice.*

VICTORIA, B.C., 3rd September, 1887.

SIR,—We have the honor to inform you that we are in receipt of a letter from our Mr. Drake, written from Sitka under date 28th August, in which he states that a telegram was received at Sitka, relative to the schooners seized last year, from the United States Attorney General Garland, directing their release and discharge of the men. The judge gave an order accordingly which was afterwards rescinded on the assumption that the telegram was a forgery. No official letter of any sort either confirming the telegram or respecting the affair has been received at Sitka. The schooners now seized and at Sitka are the "Anna Beck," "W. P. Sayward," "Dolphin," and "Grace." The "Alfred Adams," was also seized. The trial of the present men, Mr. Drake states, would not take place until after the arrival of the revenue cutter "Rush"; also that judging from the past and the views held by the court, the result would most probably be the same and urges that immediate steps should be taken to prevent the imprisonment of the masters, and that he would obtain declarations from the masters duly certified, and enter a protest at the trial.

The "Rush" was not expected at Sitka until yesterday.

Regarding the seizure of the "Alfred Adams," we have to state that that schooner has arrived here safely. The declarations of her captain, Dyer, and his men have been duly taken, which her owners, Messrs. Guttman & Frank of this city yesterday handed to Hon. Mr. Hamley, Collector of Customs, together with a sealed letter which the commander of the "Rush" handed to Captain Dyer to be delivered to the district attorney at Sitka. These papers no doubt Mr. Hamley has already forwarded to the proper department.

We have since forwarded a copy of this information to the Right Honorable Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B.

We have, &c.,

DRAKE, JACKSON & HELMCKEN.

The Honorable J. S. D. THOMPSON, Minister of Justice, Ottawa.

*Deputy Minister of Justice to Deputy Minister of Fisheries.*

[Enclosure No. 10.]

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CANADA, OTTAWA, 12th September, 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose for your information a copy of a letter which has been received by the Minister of Justice from Messrs. Drake, Jackson & Helmcken, in which they report with reference to the sealing vessels which have been seized in the Behring Sea by the United States authorities.

I am to state that the Minister of Justice has taken no action with respect to this communication, but that he is of the opinion that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries should at his earliest convenience take steps to communicate the substance thereof to the Colonial Office and to the British Minister at Washington.

I have, &c.,

GEO. W. BURBIDGE,

The Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Ottawa.

D. M. J.

*Lord Lansdowne to Sir L. S. West.*

CITADEL, QUEBEC, 26th September, 1887.

SIR,—With reference to previous correspondence I have the honor to forward herewith for your information a copy of an approved Minute of the Privy Council of Canada, dated 21st inst., covering copies of a report of my Minister of Marine and Fisheries and other papers relating to the seizure and detention of the Canadian sealing schooner "Alfred Adams" and other Canadian vessels by the United States authorities in Behring Sea.

Enclosures of No. 22.