

Foreign Office, enclosing a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, respecting the seizure of British vessels engaged in seal fishing in Behring's Sea last autumn.

I have, &c.

H. T. HOLLAND.

Governor General, the Most Honorable the Marquis of Lansdowne, G.C.M.G.

[Enclosure No 1.]

*The Foreign Office to the Colonial Office.*

FOREIGN OFFICE, 5th May, 1887.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from this office of the 15th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before secretary Sir Henry Holland, a copy of a despatch, No. 97, dated 13th April, 1887, with its enclosures from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, relative to the question of the seizure last autumn in Behring's Sea of three British schooners engaged in seal fishing.

Copies of the laws of the United States relating to Alaska to which reference is vide U. S. statutes *re* made in Mr. Bayard's note of the 12th ultimo to Sir L. West, are Alaska, sec. 1956-1971. also enclosed.

I am, &c.

P. W. CURRIE.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

*Sir L. S. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

WASHINGTON, 13th April, 1887.

MY LORD,—With reference to Your Lordship's telegram No. 7 of 2nd instant, I have the honor to enclose to your Lordship, herewith, copy of a note which I addressed to the Secretary of State, as well as copy of reply thereto, stating that the records of the judicial proceedings in cases of the British vessels seized in Behring's Sea, were received at the State Department on Saturday last, and are now under examination; and that the remoteness of the scene of the fur seal fisheries has delayed the Treasury officials in framing appropriate regulations, and issuing orders to the United States police vessels, which information I had the honor to telegraph to Your Lordship this day.

I have, &c.,

L. S. WEST.

The Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No. 3.]

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

WASHINGTON, 4th April, 1887.

SIR,—In view of the approaching fishing season in Behring's Sea, and the fitting out of vessels for fishing operations in those waters, Her Majesty's Government have requested me to inquire whether the owners of such vessels may rely on being unmolested by the cruisers of the United States when not near land.

Her Majesty's Government are also desirous to know whether the documents referred to in your note of 3rd February last, connected with the seizure of certain British vessels beyond the three-mile limit, and legal proceedings connected therewith, have been received, and I have the honor, therefore, to request you to be good enough to enable me to reply to their inquiries on the part of Her Majesty's Government with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.,

L. S. WEST.

The Hon. T. F. Bayard, &c., &c., &c.