

same month, in which you informed us that under the Treaty of 1825 between Russia and Great Britain we were free to pursue our voyages and seal-hunting in those waters, we now have the honour, on behalf of the British Columbia Sealers' Association, to bring under your notice two paragraphs which have recently appeared in the Victoria "Daily Colonist" on the same subject.

We are now outfitting for the ensuing season's voyage, and as, owing to the American *molna* *ricendi*, we are excluded from the eastern portion of Behring Sea, we have no alternative but to proceed to the Japanese and Russian side of the sea.

We would therefore respectfully ask you to say what the limit is within which we must not approach Japanese and Russian territory. Is it 1 league—3 nautical miles, or is it 3 leagues—9 nautical miles?

We take leave, at the same time, again most urgently to urge that we may be afforded naval protection in the exercise of our rights. If not preventing seizures, it would be a great advantage to us that there should be disinterested and official witnesses of our proceedings, and would at least protect us from insult and robbery such as we suffered in 1892.

We have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN G. COX,

*President, British Columbia Sealers' Association.*

(Signed) RICHARD HALL,

*Secretary, British Columbia Sealers' Association.*

The Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa,  
&c. &c. &c.

*From Victoria, British Columbia, "Daily Colonist" of January 3, 1893.*

#### *Of Interest to Sealing-men.*

Japanese papers received by the Northern Pacific liner "Tacoma" contain the following Notice, which will be read with interest by all identified with the sealing industry:—

"Masters and owners of British vessels are, by instruction of Her Majesty's Government, hereby warned that vessels attempting to pursue seals or fur-otters in the Russian territorial waters without special licence are liable to seizure and confiscation, and go at their own risk."

(Signed) JAMES TROUP,

*Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.*

British Consulate, Yokohama,  
December 10, 1892.

*From the Victoria, British Columbia, "Daily Colonist" of December 14, 1892.*

The San Francisco correspondent of the "Fur Trade Review" (New York) prints the following in the December issue of that well-known trade magazine:—

"That was quite a sensational story which was brought out at Victoria to the effect that Captain de Levron, of the cruiser 'Zabinka,' the vessel which made nearly all of the seizures on the Russian coast this year, had been declared insane and relieved of his commission. It was interpreted by some of the Victoria sealing men as an effort on Russia's part to shift the responsibility for the Captain's actions, and as a clear evidence of backdown.

"They are in great hopes of receiving compensation from Russia for the seizures made, but it will not be long before they realize that there is no such good luck in store for them.

"In the first place, Captain de Levron is not insane (as his arrival here a few days ago fully established), and he was not removed on account of having made too many seizures, but for the reason that he neglected his duty in not having gathered in more of the illegitimate hunters.

"It was proven against him that on two distinct occasions he ran into harbour, once for ten days, and again for fifteen days, during the height of the sealing season, when the poachers were as thick as bees on the forbidden grounds.

"This offence has been considered so great in the eyes of the Russian Government that de Levron's commission has been permanently revoked, and he will never again be given command of any vessel sailing under the Russian flag. The Captain arrived in this city on the steamer "City of Peking" from Japan, and will go direct to St. Petersburg."

The same correspondent also gives the catch of the American sealing-fleet for 1892 as follows:—

City of San Diego	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	558
Louis G. Olsen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,342
Rose Sparks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	457
E. E. Webster	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,172
Active	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Iranhoe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,287
C. G. White	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	988
F. J. Sutherland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,603
Walter T. Dyer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,187
Lillie L.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	580
Bowhead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,013