

CUSTOMS, ST. THOMAS, 22nd November, 1879.

The Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,—Be good enough to inform me what Customs officers' duty may be regarding the branding of coal oil coming in tanks and then afterwards barrelled for inspection.

We have no branding irons nor stencil apparatus.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

E. DUNHAM.

11th December, 1879.

The Collector of Customs, St. Thomas, Ontario.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, respecting the branding of "coal oil" arriving in tanks, I beg leave to state that it will be sufficient to put the inspection marks upon the barrels with a brush and paint.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. JOHNSON.

CUSTOM HOUSE, PORT MULGRAVE, N.S.,

11th December, 1879.

J. JOHNSON, Esq.,

Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,—I telegraphed you yesterday in connection with seizure of schooner "M. M. Chase," of Portland, U.S., and no doubt there is plenty of others having been doing the same, if could be found. It is almost impossible to keep the run of them, as they go past in the night time, and in this case the kerosene oil was sold after night, and then the vessel left and came here to anchor, and just received the information in time to secure her, which I have her in a good dock, only forty feet from Custom House. The schooner is a splendid new vessel of 93 tons, and least value and cargo \$9,000; we valued her at \$7,000, as a prize. If the law will allow her to be confiscated it ought to be done, as it would show others what to do, or else a heavy fine put upon the vessel, cargo, and Captain. As I said before, it is almost impossible to watch them without we get word ahead by telegram, as in this case. I always telegraph to the Collector at Charlottetown, P.E.I., when I see any suspicious vessels passing that way. I hope your orders concerning this vessel will be strict and strong, and believe I shall always be on the look-out for others.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

DAVID MURRAY, JR.

CUSTOM HOUSE, CHARLOTTETOWN,

11th December, 1879.

To J. JOHNSON, Esq.,

Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,—In regard to seizure of the American schooner M. M. Chase yesterday, at Port Mulgrave, N.S., information in regard to which has no doubt reached you, I have the honor to inform you, that the captain of that vessel reported inwards, at the outport of Georgetown, P.E.I., on the 29th of November, having on board six barrels of petroleum in his own name. It was found that the oil would not stand the required test, so it was detained and stored awaiting exportation.

On the 9th December, the same vessel having taken on board a load of potatoes cleared for Bermuda, with the potatoes and the same six barrels of oil, under bond, in the captain's name.