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THE SITUATION.

Additional seizures of Canadian sealing vessels, in Behring sea, are reported. They were made by Captain Shepard, of the revenue steamer "Rush," for sealing in Behring sea. One vessel, the "Sayward," of Victoria, B.C., according to the American account, which purports to be semi-official, was captured July 9, fifty-nine miles from Cape Cheerful, which was presumably the nearest land. The vessel and crew were sent to Sitka, where the crew were set at liberty. The "Dolphin," another Victoria vessel, was captured forty miles from Cape Cheerful, on the 12th July. Five days later, the British (Canadian?) steam schooner "Grace" was captured ninety-six miles from Ounalaaska. In all cases, the evidence seems plain that these vessels had been catching seals. For this act they were captured, it being alleged to be in violation of the revised statutes of the United States. It would seem that the American government adheres to the contention that Behring sea is a close sea, from the American half of which it has a right to exclude foreigners. And not only foreigners but all Americans who are not partners in the Alaska company are apparently held to be excluded, for at the same time comes the report of the capture of the American schooner "Lilly L." of San Francisco, on the same charge. The statute, the violation of which is complained, of was passed in the interest of the Alaska company. Congress has a right to make what laws it likes to bind its own citizens; but it cannot override the international law, as these acts of authority assume to do.

A different account is given by the mate of the "Sayward" of the capture of that vessel. His statement is in the form of an affidavit, and to the effect that the "Sayward" had not caught any of the seals found on board of her, in Behring sea, as the weather was foggy, having previously taken them, in the Pacific ocean, north of Vancouver. It would appear from this account that the "Sayward" had been in pursuit of seals in Behring sea. The chances are that there may be some dispute about the facts, and that the officers of the U. S.

Revenue cutter "Rush" suspected or believed that the captured vessel had taken seals in Behring sea, where it is admitted she had been in pursuit of them. The facts ought to be established at the trial, which is to come off at Sitka, on Monday next. The statement of the case received at the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa, has been communicated to the Imperial authorities.

The questions arising out of previous seizures in Behring sea were erroneously supposed to be settled. The Canadian government, it seems, was of the impression, as a result of the correspondence with Washington on the subject, that the surrender of the schooners settled everything. So Mr. Thos. White, Minister of the Interior, recently informed the Board of Trade of Victoria, B.C.; but he said he found that "nothing had been done." Does this mean that the vessels were not given up, or only that the questions raised by the seizure had not been settled? The trial growing out of the first seizures is to take place at Sitka on the 22nd inst., and there is a question of having the Canadian government represented. "It is," as Mr. White said, "an entirely new doctrine that one country [in this case Russia] can cede to another [in this case the United States] the exclusive right to the high seas"; and it is on this ground that the seizures were made. The fishery question may count for something in the next presidential election; and the party which makes the most exaggerated pretensions may hope to win the largest number of votes. But the American contentions, on one side of the continent, go far to neutralize those set up on the other.

It is certain that American fishermen are meeting exceptionally poor success in Canadian waters, this year. Some Gloucester vessels have returned literally empty; and the New England fleet altogether has caught only about one sixth as much mackerel as it had caught, to the same date, two years ago, and less than half of last year's take. At the same time our own fishermen are doing well. The facts prove the value of the inshore fisheries, which since the abrogation of the fishery clauses of the treaty of Washington, great pains have been taken to depreciate. No doubt the run of the fish varies; when the run is close to the coast, the American fishermen have the choice of trying to poach or going home empty handed. To their credit, some of them have accepted the latter disagreeable alternative. It is these fishermen, principally, who have stood in the way of a mutually advantageous settlement of the question. Perhaps, by and bye, they will come to see where their true interest lies, and then something may be done.

Complaints are made that the ranchmen in the United States have, for several years, been doing business at a loss; that the business has reached a low mark, and that seventy-five per cent. of the ranchmen are bankrupt, and are merely held up by the banks, in the hope that better prices may come. But this story is told of the long-horn men: can it be an invention of the short-horn men? A specific item is given to show the depreciation; the allegation being

that a hard-pressed ranchman offered 8,000 head of cattle for \$7 a head, and was unable to obtain it, though four years ago, he would have had no difficulty in getting \$25 a head. The Chicago Tribune vouches for the facts. If this be all true or near the truth, our own ranchmen will suffer too; but if it be true, one is puzzled to understand how the price of beef keeps up to its present figure in the butcher's stall. Can any one in the secret explain the mystery? In the Alberta District, the loss of cattle last winter, from cold, or rather from their being unable to get food, was 15 per cent. of acclimatized and 25 per cent. of un-acclimatized cattle. But the winter has been followed by an exceptionally favorable summer.

Two steps have been taken during the week which bring the carpenters' strike nearer to its close. About half the men have been allowed to go to work on permits, from the authority that governs the strike. But the sufferance is not all on one side: if the men go back for their own convenience, the masters take them for the same reason, and are under no more engagement to keep them than they are to stay. These temporary permits form an easy step, which was wisely taken, towards the end of a difficulty in which the strikers are getting the worst of it: they are not likely to be withdrawn. The Knights of Labor have withdrawn from the strike, which they did not originate, but subsequently countenanced by calling off their men. Now that they have withdrawn their support, their men are free to go back to work, which gives them a decided advantage. The masters, when they wish to put the best face on matters, say they have men enough; and though this is an over-statement of the conditions in their favor, they may soon have a choice of men, if they have it not already, and the remnant may have to go elsewhere.

The wine product of California is expected to be 16,000,000 gallons this year, one million less than last year, but the quality promises to be better. The only thing California requires to enable it to become a great wine-producing country, is improved methods of production, resulting in a superior article. It takes a long time to learn how to do this; but the knowledge will come in time. One trouble is that, to suit a taste vitiated by spirit-drinking and want of acquaintance with good wine, the mass of possible wine drinkers insist on having the wine spoiled by sweetening. In proportion as spirit-drinking disappears, this vitiated taste will follow. Sweet wine is dangerously seductive; what is wanted is a wine which clogs on the palate when a moderate quantity has been taken with a meal. This is the safest kind of wine, and it is also the most natural, sweet wines generally being the product of a mild species of adulteration.

The Quebec government is reported to have floated a loan of \$8,500,000, through a New York house, at 8½ per cent. The details of the transaction, when they come, may somewhat modify this general statement.