

No. 119.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received August 26.)

Sir, *Downing Street, August 25, 1887.*
 I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada, forwarding a Report upon the seizure of boats and nets belonging to the United States' seiners "Argonaut" and "Colonel J. H. French," by the Canadian cruiser "Critic," and also a Report on the detention of the "Annie W. Hodgson" by the Canadian cruiser "Advance."

I am, &c.
 (Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 119.

The Marquis of Lansdowne to Sir H. Holland.

Sir, *New Derreen, New Richmond, August 8, 1887.*
 I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a Report which has been received in the Department of Marine and Fisheries upon the recent seizure off East Point of boats and nets belonging to the United States' seiners "Argonaut" and "Colonel J. H. French," by Captain McLaren, of the Canadian cruiser "Critic;" also copy of a further Report by Captain Knowlton, of the Canadian cruiser "Advance," of his detention of the United States' schooner "Annie S. Hodgson," at Shelburne.
 2. You will observe that in the former case the boats seized were beyond all question engaged in fishing within the 3-mile limit.
 3. The "Annie S. Hodgson" has since been released upon deposit of the usual fine of 400 dollars for breach of the Customs Law.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 119.

Mr. McLaren to Mr. J. Tilton.

Sir, *Souris, Prince Edward Island, July 25, 1887.*
 IT is my duty to inform you that on yesterday, Sunday, the 24th July, I seized the seining boat and seine of the Gloucester United States' seiner "Argonaut," also the seining boat and seine of the Gloucester United States' seiner "Colonel J. H. French."

The facts of the seizures are as follows:—

8 A.M.—Northward off East Point, weighed anchor and followed the fleet (about sixty in number) round to the southward of the Point, the fleet keeping between 4 and 5 miles off shore.

About 10 A.M., the fleet being off shore, came to an anchor.

About noon, noticing that some of the vessels were working inshore, weighed anchor and stood off. When cruising off noticed four seine boats with seines out, inside the 3-mile limit. Bore down for them and found that two were Canadian and the other two United States' boats belonging to the seiners "Argonaut" and "Colonel J. H. French," both of Gloucester.

I took the latter two boats in tow, but was unable to seize the schooners as they, on seeing us bear down on the boats, had sailed off among the fleet. Immediately on seizing the above-mentioned boats I took cross bearings as follows:—

East Point Lighthouse bearing north-east half north, and bar in head bearing west half south. Sounded and found 9 fathoms of water, and so buoyed the spot, leaving the small boat with a man in her to watch the buoy. After getting the seine boats rightly in tow and the crews on board, sailed, for the purpose of measuring the distance with the taffrail log, inshore, towards the nearest land, and when in 3 fathoms of water, and judging myself to be about half-a-mile off, tacked and stood off for the buoy. I found the distance from the nearest land to the buoy to be $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles,