

I telegraphed to you on the 7th instant that it was proposed to prefer a claim for compensation against the United States Government, and enquiring what answer your Ministers would suggest, but as at present advised it does not seem to me desirable to put forward the claims which accompanied your despatch N o. 9 of the 15th of January, as some of them are apparently much exaggerated and a new issue would be raised as to the reasonableness of the claims.

In the meantime the Marquis of Salisbury has addressed the despatch, of which I enclose a copy, to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, desiring him to communicate it to the Secretary of State.

Your Ministers will, no doubt, take this matter into consideration at the earliest moment.

I have, &c.,

H. T. HOLLAND.

Governor General the Most Honorable the Marquis of Lansdowne, &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No 1.]

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.*

FOREIGN OFFICE, 10th September, 1887.

SIR,—By a despatch of the 30th October last (No. 214), the late Earl of Iddesleigh instructed you to call the attention of the United States Secretary of State to the circumstances of the seizure in Behring Sea, by the American cruiser "Corwin," of some British Canadian vessels; and his Lordship directed you to state to Mr. Secretary Bayard that Her Majesty's Government felt sure that if the proceedings which were reported to have taken place in the United States District Court were correctly described, the United States Government would admit their illegality, and would cause reasonable reparation to be made to the British subjects for the wrongs to which they had been subjected and for the losses which they had sustained.

By a previous despatch of the 9th September, you had been desired to ask to be furnished with any particulars which the United States Government might possess relative to the seizures in question; and on the 20th October you were instructed to enter a protest on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, and reserve for consideration hereafter all rights to compensation.

Nearly four months having elapsed without any definite information being furnished by the United States Government as to the grounds of the seizures, my predecessor instructed you, on the 8th June last, to express to Mr. Bayard the concern of Her Majesty's Government at the delay, and to urge the immediate attention of the United States Government to the action of the American authorities in their treatment of these vessels and of their masters and crews.

On the 3rd February Mr. Bayard informed you that the record of the judicial proceedings which he had called for was shortly expected to reach Washington, and that, without conclusion at that time of any questions which might be found to be involved in these cases of seizures, orders had been issued by the President's direction for the discontinuance of all pending proceedings, the discharge of the vessels referred to, and the release of all persons under arrest in connection therewith.

On the 4th April, under instructions from me, you inquired of Mr. Bayard, in view of the approaching fishing season in Behring Sea, whether the owners of British vessels might rely when not near land on being unmolested by the cruisers of the United States, and you again asked when the record of the judicial proceedings might be expected.

Mr. Bayard informed you, in reply (12th April), that the papers referred to had reached him, and were being examined; that there had been unavoidable delay in framing appropriate regulations and issuing orders to the United States vessels to police the Alaskan waters; that the Revised Statutes relating to Alaska, Sections 1,956 and 1,971, contained the laws of the United States in relation to the matter; and that the regulations were being considered, and he would inform you at the