

migration to the Seal Islands of St. Paul and St. George. He recommended that a revenue-cutter be sent to prevent this. But Sec. Boutwell's reply was: "I do not see that the United States would have the jurisdiction or power to drive off parties going up there for that purpose, unless they made such attempts within a marine league of the shore." ¹

1881, however, seems to mark the change of opinion on this point. The occurrence in that year of similar expeditions prompted Collector D. A. D'Ancona to request from the Treasury Department more accurate information as to the meaning of the above laws. The interpretation now put upon them by the Department was as follows :

"You inquire in regard to the interpretation of the terms 'waters thereof' and 'waters adjacent thereto' as used in the law, and how far the jurisdiction of the United States is to be understood as extending.

"Presuming your inquiry to relate more especially to the waters of Western Alaska, you are informed that the treaty with Russia of March 30, 1870, by which the Territory of Alaska was ceded to the United States, defines the boundary of the Territory so ceded. * * *

"* * * All the waters within that boundary, to the western end of the Aleutian Archipelago and chain of islands, are considered as comprised within the waters of Alaska Territory. All the penalties prescribed by law against the killing of fur-bearing animals would therefore attach against any violation of law within the limits before described." ²

¹ No. 56. Letter to Mr. Phelps, April 19, 1872.

² No. 212. Treas. Regs. Let. of Acting-Sec. French to Mr. D'Ancona, March 12, 1881.