

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to whom the despatch and inclosure were referred, submits a statement of the Customs officer at Steep Creek, and observes that the captain of the "Crittenden" violated the Customs Laws by neglecting to enter his vessel as requested by the Customs officer, and in landing and shipping a man, clearly exceeded any Treaty provision he was entitled to avail himself of.

It would appear that the remark made by the Customs officer, that "he would seize the vessel," had reference solely to the captain's violation of the Customs Regulations, and, the Minister submits, cannot be construed into a denial of any Treaty privilege the master was entitled to enjoy.

The Committee, concurring in the above, respectfully recommend that your Excellency be moved to inform the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the sense of the Report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE, Clerk, Privy Council.

Inclosure 3 in No. 24.

*Mr. J. H. Carr to the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Ottawa.*

Sir,

*Steep Creek, November 1, 1886.*

YOURS of the 28th October came to hand to-day, and, in reply, can state to you that part of the crew of the schooner "Crittenden" came on shore at Steep Creek, and landed their barrels and filled them with water. I went direct to the men who were filling the barrels, and told them to come and enter before taking wood and water; they said they would not enter or make any report. I told them that I would seize the schooner "Crittenden" for violating the Customs Laws; they said they would risk that, as the schooner was now out of the way, about 3 miles from my station, down the strait, and it was impossible for me to board the vessel. They also landed a man the same day, with his effects, and on their return from Gloucester to the Bay St. Lawrence they shipped a man. Was looking out for the vessel, but could not catch her. I reported the case to the Collector of Customs at Port Hawkesbury, and on the schooner "Crittenden's" return from the Bay St. Lawrence she was seized, and Collector Bourinot got the affidavits of the captain of the said schooner and also of some of the crew, which he stated to the Department. I was in the office at the time when Collector Bourinot received a telegram from the Department to release the schooner "Crittenden" on the deposit of 400 dollars.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JAMES H. CARR, pro Collector.

No. 25.

*Sir L. West to the Earl of Iddesleigh.—(Received December 30.)*

My Lord,

*Washington, December 18, 1886.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a Bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which provides that "the President be and is hereby authorized to appoint a Commission to proceed to such places in the United States or elsewhere as may be designated by the Secretary of State, to take testimony, under oath or affirmation in relation to the losses and injuries inflicted since the 31st December, 1885, by British authorities, Imperial or Colonial, upon citizens of the United States engaged in the fisheries on the north-east coasts of British North America; said Commission to have the same powers as a Commissioner of a Circuit Court."

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 26.

*Mr. Bramston to Sir J. Pouncefote.—(Received December 30.)*

Sir,

*Downing Street, December 29, 1886.*

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 27th instant, relating to the case of the United States' fishing-vessel "David J. Adams," I am directed by