

CUSTOM HOUSE, PORTLAND, MAINE,
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, 27th December, 1879.

To whom it may concern :

I hereby certify that the American schooner M. M. Chase, W. S. Beers, master, cleared from this port 15th November, 1879, in ballast, as appears by manifest on file in this office.

Witness my hand and seal of office, this 27th day of December, A.D. 1879.

LEWIS B. SMITH, *Deputy Collector.*

PORTLAND, 27th December, 1879.

Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

DEAR SIR,—This is to certify that we, the owners of schooner M. M. Chase, cleared her in ballast, and that she was chartered by Captain W. S. Beers, to sail on shares, and that we do not approve of any such doings, and that it is strictly prohibited with all our captains and then again the captain pledged himself, his word, that he would not take or allow anyone to take anything on board that would jeopardize the schooner, on which terms we were induced to let him have our schooner. To the above we swear it to be the truth, and here affix our names, this 27th day of December, 1879, and pray Your Honor to release our property on as considerate terms as shall please Your Honor.

Yours respectfully,
E. H. CHASE.

CUMBERLAND S. S.

CITY OF PORTLAND, 27th December 1879.

On this twenty-seventh day of December, A. D. 1879, personally appear before me, E. H. Chase and A. N. Hawes, of the firm of Timmins & Hawes, all of whom are to me well known, and under oath made declaration to the above statement as true. In witness whereof I hereunto affix my hand and official seal, day and date above mentioned.

(Signed) GEORGE W. RICH, *Notary Public.*

OTTAWA, 31st December, 1879.

To the Minister of Customs.

The seizure of this vessel was caused by a nefarious act on the part of the captain. He brought six barrels kerosene oil which would not stand the fire-test required, and was allowed to take it on board again for export.

Afterwards he sold two barrels same oil and put them on shore in the night, and then sailed.

These two barrels were seized by Officer Hessian, and Mr. Wolff communicated by telegraph with Officer Murray, of Port Mulgrave, where the vessel was to call, and he succeeded in seizing the remaining four barrels and the vessel. The latter was subsequently released on payment of \$400, and the oil remains in the hands of the officers to be disposed of.

The undersigned respectfully recommends that the fine of \$400 be confirmed, and the oil, after reduction to the proper standard, be disposed of to the best advantage.

(Signed) J. JOHNSON, *Commissioner of Customs.*