

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

(656)

Relating to the Seizure of British Vessels in Behring Sea.

Sir L. West to Mr. Bayard.

WASHINGTON, 28th September, 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have been officially informed that the British vessels mentioned in your note of the 3rd February last have not been released, and that I am instructed to inquire the reason for the delay in complying with the orders sent to this effect, as stated in your above mentioned note.

I have, &c.,

L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

Sir L. West to Mr. Bayard.

WASHINGTON, 2nd February, 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that, under date of the 27th ultimo, the Marquis of Salisbury instructs me to inquire whether the information and papers relative to the seizure of the British schooners "Carolina," "Onward" and "Thornton" have reached the United States Government.

I have, &c.,

L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

The Earl of Iddesleigh to Sir L. West.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 30th October, 1886.

SIR,—Her Majesty's Government are still awaiting a report on the result of the application which you were directed by my despatch, No. 181, of the 9th ultimo, to make to the Government of the United States for information in regard to the reported seizure by the United States revenue cutter "Corwin" of three Canadian schooners while engaged in the pursuit of seals in Behring Sea.

In the meanwhile, further details in regard to these seizures have been sent to this country, and Her Majesty's Government now consider it incumbent on them to bring to the notice of the United States Government the facts of the case as they have reached them from British sources.

It appears that the three schooners, named respectively the "Carolina," the "Onward," and the "Thornton," were fitted out in Victoria, British Columbia, for the capture of seals in the waters of the Northern Pacific Ocean, adjacent to Vancouver's Island, Queen Charlotte Islands, and Alaska.

According to the depositions enclosed herewith* from some of the officers and men, these vessels were engaged in the capture of seals in the open sea out of sight of land, when they were taken possession of on or about the 1st August last by the United States revenue cutter "Corwin," the "Carolina" in latitude 55° 52' north,

* See printed correspondence, p. 4, 5 and 6, letters of Ogilvie and Munroe, depositions of Dellas, McLardy and Munsie.