

seizures in question are the same as those which induced the executive to direct the release of the vessels mentioned in his note of 3rd February.

I have, &c.,

L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

*Sir L. West to Mr. Bayard.*

WASHINGTON, 11th August, 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have received a telegram from the commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Pacific, dated Victoria, B.C., 7th August, reporting the seizure by United States cruisers of three British Columbia sealing schooners in Behring Sea a long distance from Sitka, and that several other vessels were in sight being towed in. In conveying this information to you, I am requested at the same time by the Marquis of Salisbury, to state that in view of the assurances given in your note of the 3rd of February last, Her Majesty's Government had assumed that pending the conclusion of discussions between the two Governments on general questions involved, no further seizures would be made by order of the United States Government.

I have, &c.,

L. S. S. WEST.

The Hon. T. F. BAYARD, &c., &c.

*Mr. Bayard to Sir L. S. S. West.*

WASHINGTON, 13th August, 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 11th instant received yesterday afternoon, informing me of a telegraphic communication from the commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Pacific, dated at Victoria, British Columbia, 7th August, reporting the seizure of three British Columbian sealing schooners "in Behring Sea, a long distance from Sitka," and that "several other vessels were in sight being towed in."

The reference to my note to you of the 3rd of February last, which you make under the instruction of the Marquis of Salisbury, has caused me to examine the expressions contained therein, and I can discover no ground whatever for the assumption by Her Majesty's Government that it contained assurances "that pending the conclusion of discussions between the two Governments on general questions involved, no further seizures would be made by order of the United States Government."

Until your note of the 11th instant was received, I had no information of the seizure of the sealing vessels therein referred to, and have no knowledge whatever of the circumstances under which such seizures have been made.

I shall at once endeavor to supply myself with the information necessary to enable me to reply to you more fully.

The cases of seizure referred to in my note of 3rd February, 1887, had occurred during the previous August, and upon the basis of the information then obtained I write you as follows:

"In this connection I take occasion to inform you that, without conclusion at this time of any questions which may be found to be involved in these cases of seizure, orders have 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."

Having no reason to anticipate any other seizures, nothing was said in relation to the possibility of such an occurrence, nor do I find in our correspondence on the subject any grounds for such an understanding as you inform me had been assumed to exist by Her Majesty's Government.

A short time since when you called upon me and personally obtained copies of the record of the judicial proceedings in the three cases of seizure in August last in