

RUFUS STEPHENSON, Esq., M. P.

DEAR SIR,

I, herewith, send you a plain Statement of Facts relative to the unjust seizure of two Barges by the American officials at the St. Clair Flats, and I beg that you will, at the earliest moment possible, lay the matter before the Government of the Dominion, and seek for me the redress which I think myself justly entitled.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedt. Servant,

H. LITTLE.

OTTAWA, 1st August, 1870.

SIR,

In compliance with your instructions of 16th ult., I proceeded without delay, to inquire into the circumstances of the alleged seizure of the steam barge "Reindeer" and wood barge "Campbell"—with their cargoes of wood, the property of Mr. Hiram Little, of Wallaceburgh, by the United States Customs authorities at Detroit,—and also to ascertain, so far as I might be able, the accuracy of the boundary line as stated between Canada and the United States at the place of seizure, and whether the seizure was made in American or Canadian waters, &c.

With the exception of the error of naming Monday, the 26th of June, as the date of seizure—instead of Monday, the 27th, as it was—Mr. Little's statement of facts in relation to the seizure of date 4th July last, may be accepted as correct, and in corroboration of same I beg to submit,—

1st. Statement of Wm. A. Moore, Counsellor at Law at Detroit, as follows:—

DETROIT, July 26th, 1870.

G. McMICKEN, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,

In reference to your inquiry of yesterday relative to the seizure of the steam barge "Reindeer," with 26 cords wood, and the barge "Campbell," with 32 cords wood, I respectfully state as follows:—Libels were filed against said vessels and wood on the 29th of June, 1870, by A. B. Maynard, Esq., Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Michigan, for and on behalf of the United States, alleging that on various days in the year 1869, and on the 27th of June, 1870, and on various days prior to the said 27th of June, 150 cords of wood, of the value of \$400, were imported into the United States upon said barge "Campbell" from the Province of Ontario, and were unladen without permit or without payment of duty, and contrary to the Statute. That on the 27th day of June, 1870, and on various other days during the year 1870, and on various days during the year 1869, 150 cords of wood, of the value of \$400, were imported on the steam barge "Reindeer" from the Province of Ontario without a permit from the Collector, without payment of duty, and contrary to the Statutes. That, in both cases, the libel alleges that the vessel and wood are forfeited to the United States.

Both vessels and wood were bonded by Mr. Little, of Wallaceburgh.

No answer has yet been filed, but probably will be by Tuesday next. The principal question seems to be whether the newly dredged channel across the St. Clair Flats is in American or Canadian waters. Any further inquiry I shall be pleased to respond to.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

W. A. MOORE,

And 2nd. The statement of Mr. C. H. Bennet, Clerk for Mr. Brown, the contractor for the Canal across the St. Clair Flats, and obtained on the spot.