

CUSTOM HOUSE, CHARLOTTETOWN,
13th December, 1879.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose seizure report No. 8, two barrels petroleum, seized at Georgetown, landed ex-schooner M. M. Chase, also sworn statements in regard to sale and landing of same by the captain of vessel.

Not having received reply to my telegram to you, in regard to the seizure of the vessel at Port Mulgrave at 5 p.m., and having received telegram from the Collector there, stating that potatoes, which formed part of her cargo, were in danger of being frozen, I wired Mulgrave: "See section one hundred and eleven, if you release on security by order of Department, or otherwise detain oil to punish captain, and to pay his violated bond." The latter part of my message may not be quite legal, but as the captain's bond is worthless, I thought it best to secure his oil to make the bond good. It appears that the fellow got pay for the oil landed.

The American Consul here informs me that the oil matter was a private venture of the captain's, and that he, the captain, should be punished, but that it was hard on the owners of the vessel who were innocent in the matter, as well as the owners and shippers of the cargo of potatoes, which might be frozen, to detain the vessel under seizure when he was instructed by telegraph from the owners in Portland to give bonds to cover seizure, as the seizure was made at Port Mulgrave, and the Collector there informed me that he had reported to you. I could do no more than telegraph you for instructions as to taking security. Not receiving a reply, and being again called upon by Collector, Port Mulgrave, who urged danger of freezing, I telegraphed that officer as per other side. At six p.m., I received your telegram to accept \$400 cash, &c. I called on Colonel Dunn, American Consul. Got the cash, and wired Collector at Port Mulgrave: "Release Chase; 'take' cash for oil or keep it." I shall write Collector Murray instructions in regard to oil seized as directed by me, i.e., to mix it. If not claimed in thirty days bring it up to standard for Canadian oil, and sell and deposit proceeds to credit of Receiver-General. I shall also give same directions in regard to two packages at Georgetown. On Monday I shall deposit the \$400, received this evening by me, to the credit of Receiver-General, as I believe an effort will be made to reduce the fine. I have to inform you that the telegraph expenses here, at Mulgrave and Ottawa amount to about eight dollars.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) JAS. F. WOLFF,

Inspector.

The Georgetown officers who gave information are T. S. Hession and Wm. Dalsiel.—J.F.W.

PORTLAND, 26th December, 1879.

We, the undersigned, have been well acquainted, for quite a number of years, with the owners of the schooner M. M. Chase, the signers of the within document. They are well known in this city as high-minded and honorable men whose statements can be fully relied upon.

(Signed) W. S. DANA, firm DANA & Co.
" J. S. WINSLOW.
" E. G. WILLARD.