

him to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, that "orders had 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."

You will observe from Mr. Foster's recapitulation of the evidence which he has been able to collect and the documents attached to his report that an impression prevails upon the spot to the effect that orders such as those described by Sir L. West, were actually issued from Washington. There appears at all events to be some reason for believing that a telegram authorizing the release of the vessels then under detention was in fact received by the district judge, and that instructions were thereupon issued by him for the purpose of carrying out these orders. The circumstances under which those instructions are said to have been subsequently rescinded by the district judge have not unnaturally given rise to the gravest suspicion.

The Minister has called attention with great force in his report to the injury sustained by persons engaged in the sealing industry from the suspense and uncertainty in which they have been kept during the past year owing to the refusal of the United States Government to give any explicit assurances as to the treatment which they might expect at its hands.

I have, &c.,

LANSDOWNE.

The Right Honorable Sir H. HOLLAND, &c., &c. &c.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

**CERTIFIED COPY** of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 21st September, 1887.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration the annexed report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries with reference to the seizure and detention of Canadian sealing vessels by the United States authorities in Behring Sea.

The Committee concur in the said report, and they advise that Your Excellency be moved to transmit a copy of this Minute and the annexed papers to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

All which is submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE, Clerk Privy Council.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

OTTAWA, 15th September, 1887.

With reference to previous correspondence concerning the seizure and detention of Canadian sealing vessels by the United States authorities in Behring Sea, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries begs to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General in Council the following papers:—

(a.) A letter from Collector Hamley, of Victoria, B.C., dated 1st September, 1887, enclosing certain papers in reference to the seizure of the Canadian sealing schooner "Alfred Adams" in Behring Sea;

(b.) The declaration of William Henry Dyer, of Victoria, B.C., master of the Canadian schooner "Alfred Adams";

(c.) A certificate of seizure of the "Alfred Adams" signed by L. G. Shepard, captain of the United States revenue steamer "Rush";

(d.) A sealed and unopened letter directed to the United States district attorney and the United States marshal, Sitka, Alaska.

(e.) A letter from Collector Hamley, of Victoria, B.C., dated 26th July, relating to the detention of the Canadian schooners "Onward," "Carolina" and "Thornton," seized in August, 1886, by the United States cutter "Corwin" in Behring Sea.

(f.) Copy of a telegram and order purporting to be from the United States Attorney General and Judge Dawson respectively, relating to the release of the above named vessels; and