

"Richard Rush," on the 9th July last, in the Behring Sea, of the British schooner "W. P. Sayward," of Victoria, the following papers:—

- Enclosure No. 1 of No. 9. 1. A letter from W. Hamley, Collector of Customs at Victoria, B.C., to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.
- Enclosure No. 2 of No. 9. 2. The affidavit of Andrew Laing, mate of the seized schooner, sworn to at Victoria, on the 8th August, 1887, and,
- Enclosure No. 3 of No. 9. 3. The information filed in the district court of the United States for the District of Alaska against the master and mate of the "Sayward."

The Minister observes that upon reference to the affidavit of the mate of the schooner "Sayward," it appears that all the seals on board the vessel were taken in the Pacific Ocean, and before the vessel entered Behring Sea, so that even the alleged claim on the part of the United States Government to jurisdiction in the Behring Sea is not available in the case now complained of; and would also call attention to the reply of the commander of the United States steamer "Richard Rush," in which he states his orders were "to take everything he came across in the Behring Sea."

The Committee recommend that Your Excellency be moved to forward copies of the annexed papers to the Right Honorable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, for transmission to the Foreign Office, in order that a remonstrance may be made to the United States Government for so unwarrantable an act as that committed by the commander of the "Richard Rush," and a claim made for all damages arising out of the seizure of the schooner "W. P. Sayward" in the open sea and the detention of officers and crew, and also that copies of the papers be sent to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington.

All which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE, *Clerk of the Privy Council.*

Sir H. Holland to Lord Lansdowne.

DOWNING STREET, 1st September, 1887.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit to you for communication to your Government with reference to previous correspondence, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, enclosing correspondence with the United States Secretary of State relative to the recent seizure of sealing vessels in Behring Sea, which has been received from the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.,
H. T. HOLLAND.

Governor General the Most Honorable the Marquis of Lansdowne, &c.

Sir L. S. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.

WASHINGTON, 15th August, 1887.

MY LORD,—In obedience to the instruction contained in Your Lordship's telegram, No. 31 of the 10th inst., I informed the Secretary of State that three British Columbian schooners had been seized in Behring Sea by United States cruisers a long distance from Sitka, and that several other vessels were in sight, being towed in. I also intimated to Mr. Bayard that in view of the assurances given in his 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. Copy of my note is herewith enclosed. I have likewise the honor to enclose to Your Lordship copy of a note which I have received in reply to the above communication, in which Mr. Bayard states that he can discover no ground whatever, from the expressions contained in his note referred to, for the assumption by Her Majesty's Government that it contained any such assurances, but that he will ascertain without delay whether the circumstances attendant upon the cases of the