

taught by Christ and His Apostles. This is that auspicious day—the dispensation of the fulness of times, when God has established His Church. May the principles of truth spread till every man in every place shall recognize Jesus as the Lord; when He shall reign King of kings as he is now King of Saints, and when every honest soul will receive those principles that alone will bring salvation.

Brother George D. Pyper sang a solo, "Forever with the Lord," and the choir sang the anthem, "O, be joyful."

The closing prayer was offered by Elder Wm. C. Dunbar.

BEHRING SEA CORRESPONDENCE.

The Following is a dispatch from Washington, dated July 23. — The President sent to the House of Representatives, in answer to the resolution introduced by Representative Hitt, the official correspondence with the government of Great Britain touching the seal fisheries of Behring Sea. In the accompanying letter of transmittal to the President, Secretary Blaine, under date of Bar Harbor, July 19, regrets the delay in transmission, which the President directed on the 11th inst. He says the correspondence is still in progress.

The correspondence includes thirty separate papers, beginning with a letter from Edwards, first secretary of legation and charge d'affaires, secretary of legation, after Minister West's recall, dated August 24, 1889, and closing with one from Secretary Blaine to Sir Julian Pauncefote, British minister, dated July 19, 1889.

The opening letter from Edwards says he is instructed by his government to call attention to the fact that repeated rumors have reached the British Government that a British vessel had been searched and seized by the United States cruisers in Behring Sea outside the three-mile limit, and asks the United States to send stringent instructions to its officers to prevent the possibility of such occurrences taking place, in accordance with the assurances of Secretary Bayard, that pending the negotiations, no such interference should take place, and adding that Sir Julian Pauncefote, on his return to Washington, would be prepared to discuss the whole question.

To the Blaine replied on the same day that some rumors, probably based on truth, had reached the government of the United States, but that up to date there had been no official communication received on the subject. He adds: "It has been and is the earnest desire of the President of the United States to have such adjustment as shall remove all possible ground of misunderstanding with her Majesty's government concerning the existing troubles in Behring Sea; and the President believes the responsibility for the delay in adjustment cannot be properly charged to the government of the United States. In the opinion of the President the points

at issue between the two governments are capable of prompt adjustment on a basis entirely honorable to both.

September 12th, last, Edwards asked when he might expect an answer to the request of his government, made August 24th, that instructions be sent to Alaska to prevent the probability of seizure of British ships in Behring Sea. He says recent reports of seizures having taken place are causing much excitement, both in England and Canada.

—Blaine, September 14th, replied that he supposed her Majesty's government was satisfied of the President's earnest desire to come to a friendly agreement; that the official instructions to Sir Julian Pauncefote to proceed immediately after arrival in October to a full discussion of the question removed all necessity for preliminary correspondence touching its merits. A categorical response would have been and still is impracticable, unjust to this government and misleading to the government of her Majesty. Therefore, the judgment of the President was that the whole subject could more wisely be remanded to the formal discussion, so near at hand. It was proper, however, to add that any instructions sent to Behring Sea at the time of your original request would have failed to reach those waters before the departure of the vessels of the United States.

The next communication is a telegram from Lord Salisbury to Edwards, favoring the proposed international agreement for a closed season on the sealing grounds.

In another letter to Edwards, October 2nd, the marquis transmits copies of affidavits bearing on the seizure of the British sealers *Black Diamond* and *Triumph* by the United States revenue cutter *Rush*. He says: "It is apparent from these affidavits that the vessels were seized at a distance from land far in excess of the limit of maritime jurisdiction which any nation can claim by international law. The cases are similar in this respect to those of the ships *Caroline*, *Onward* and *Thornton*, seized by a vessel of the United States outside of territorial waters in the summer of 1884." He adds that the illegality of this was brought to the attention of the United States, and though no official reply was made, Bayard gave unofficial assurance that no more seizures would be made pending negotiations, and says: "But in view of the unexpected renewal of seizures, of which her Majesty's government has previously complained, it is my duty to protest against them and to state that in the opinion of her Majesty's government they are wholly unjustified by international law."

The weighty consideration growing out of the acquisition of that territory, with all the rights on land and sea inseparably connected therewith, may be safely left out of view while the grounds are set forth upon which this government rests its justification for the action complained of by her Majesty's government.

The Secretary then speaks of the value of the seal fisheries, which were controlled by Russia without interference or question until the cession of Alaska to the United States in 1867. This undisturbed possession continued to the United States until 1886, passing whaling vessels abstaining from seal capture. He says that this uniform avoidance of all attempts to take fur seal in those waters had been a constant recognition of the right held and exercised, first by Russia and subsequently by this government. It had also been a recognition of the fact, now held beyond denial or doubt, that the taking of seals in the open sea rapidly leads to extinction.

The correspondence between Blaine and the new British minister began January 22nd of this year, with a very long letter from the Secretary to Sir Julian Pauncefote. The Secretary opened with an acknowledgment of the receipt of papers bearing on the seizures made by the *Rush*. He says: "In the opinion of the President the Canadian vessels arrested and detained in Behring Sea were engaged in a pursuit in itself *contra donos mores*, a pursuit which in necessity involves serious and permanent injury to the rights of the government and people of the United States. To establish this ground it is not necessary to argue the question of the extent and nature of the sovereignty of this government over the waters of Behring sea, it is not necessary to explain, certainly not to define, the powers and privileges ceded by his Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, in treaty, by which the Alaskan territory was transferred to the United States.

This, in brief, was the condition of the Alaska fur seal fisheries down to the year 1886.

Precedents, customs and rights had been established or enjoyed, either by Russia or the United States, for nearly a century. The two nations were the only powers that owned a foot of land on the continents that bordered on the islands included within the Behring waters, where seals resort to breed. In their peaceful and secluded field of labor whose benefits were so equitably shared by the native Aleuts of the Pribiloff Island, by the United States and by England, certain Canadian vessels in 1886 asserted their right to enter, and, by a ruthless course to destroy the fisheries, and with them destroy also the resulting valuable industries. The government of the United States at once proceeded to check this movement, which unchecked was sure to do great and irreparable harm. It was the course of unfeigned surprise to the United States that her Majesty's government should immediately interfere to defend and encourage (surely to encourage by defending) the course of Canadians in disturbing an industry which had been carefully developed for more than ninety years under the flags of Russia and the United States, developed in such a manner as not to interfere with the public rights or private in-