

United States Secretary of State and the Canadian authorities in 1879, in connection with the case of the Tug "Relief."

Explanations were made that there was no intention on the part of the Canadian authorities to prevent United States vessels going to the relief of any vessel, no matter what her nationality, if there was the slightest danger of her being wrecked, or of loss of cargo.

Lest difficulties should arise through Customs collectors misunderstanding the true meaning of the Order in Council and the intentions of the Canadian Government, an explanatory Order in Council was issued, showing that "wrecked vessels" meant vessels cast upon Canadian shores requiring apparatus for their removal or the discharge of cargo into other vessels, and to goods discharged or floated off and cast upon the shore.

In 1886, under authority of the Customs Act, 1883, the Governor in Council issued rules for the governing of all foreign vessels trading to Canadian ports.

In 1888 a Bill to permit American vessels to aid vessels wrecked or disabled in Canadian waters was introduced in the House of Commons, but was thrown out.

In 1889 a similar Bill was carried in the Commons, but received "the six months' hoist" in the Senate.

## AUSTRALIA AND CANADA.

359. The subsidizing of a line of steamers to ply regularly between Vancouver, B.C., and Sydney, N.S.W., led the Dominion Government to send a commissioner to Australia for the purpose of conferring with the Governments of the colonies in respect of closer trade connection and the laying of a Pacific cable entirely under British control. Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, Minister of Trade and Commerce, was intrusted with this responsible task. He left Ottawa on 7th September, 1893, and returned the 23rd December following. During that time he met as many of the Australasian Governments as possible, and learned of the deep interest which they took in the matter of more intimate relations with Canada. These interviews gave rise to several important questions requiring for their settlement joint action on the part of all the governments concerned. Mr. Bowell suggested that for this purpose a conference should be held in Canada, and on his return formal invitations were sent to the Governments of Australasia, Fiji, and Cape Colony to send representatives to Ottawa in June, 1894. The Imperial Government was also asked