

BRITISH CAPTAIN PROTESTS ARREST

Cabin Boy Is Returned and
Liquor Charge Dropped.

POLICEMAN IS RAPPED

Patrolman Said to Have Taken
Lad Away Despite Remon-
strance by Officer.

International complications, as a result of the alleged illegal boarding of a British vessel by a Portland policeman, was threatened yesterday when Captain W. S. Ireland of the steamer Bermuda appeared before United States Attorney Humphreys and formally demanded the return of a Chinese cabinboy arrested the night before.

The boy, Ro Chin, had been arrested by Patrolman Forkan, after Elmer Johnson, a longshoreman, on whom liquor had been found, guided bluecoat aboard the Bermuda and pointed out the Chinese as the liquor seller. Captain Ireland said that the prisoner, a British subject, had been taken from a British vessel over the protests of the officer in charge of the ship.

Cabinboy Released.

The cabinboy, arraigned in the police court yesterday afternoon, was released and returned to the captain for disciplinary action. Customs officials threaten action against the Bermuda and her master because of

the illegal liquor sales aboard. Whether the action of the policeman in boarding the vessel was in violation of international law has not been decided. As yet, no formal report of the case has been made by Captain Ireland to John P. Trant, British consul here.

Reports of the captain, the ship's officers and the police are at variance. According to the story told Mr. Humphreys by Captain Ireland, the policeman with the longshoreman who had carried the liquor aboard the Bermuda late Thursday night and arrested Ro Chin on a charge of selling liquor. The second officer, who was in charge of the vessel, protested on the grounds that the policeman had no warrant and no authority to board a foreign vessel. Words and some violence, consisting principally of the bluecoat's shoving of the ship's officer about, followed. Ro Chin went to jail.

Captain Makes Protest.

Captain Ireland appeared at the federal building and made his formal demand for the return of the cabin boy. He based his claim on the grounds that the Bermuda, by reason of the fact that she is a foreign vessel, cannot be boarded without warrant and that the arrest of a member of the crew without such a warrant is illegal. He also declared that the policeman had exceeded his authority in taking the prisoner ashore after having been warned against such procedure by the ship's officer.

Lengthy legal argument was made in court by Deputy City Attorney Terry to show that the police had authority to enter a room or place where they knew a crime had been committed. As Captain Ireland was in court, Judge Ekwall decided to turn the prisoner back to his ship rather than cause needless complications and difficulties.

Mayor Baker, on learning of the case, commenced an investigation of the facts, but reached no conclusion as to the merits of the case.

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Vote X 99. Dan Kellaher for city commissioner.—Pd. Adv.

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