deals on deck as allowed by the Canadian deck-load law, the undersigned begs leave to refer to an exhaustive report on this subject made at the request of the Board of Trade on the 11th December 1860, by Mr. William Smith, his deputy, who was then Comptroller of Customs and Navigation Laws at the Port of St. John, New Brunswick, and which was quoted at much length by Mr. Farrer, the Permanent Secretary of the Board of Trade, in his evidence before the Royal Commission on Unseaworthy Ships in 1873, and which was also printed in the Report of that Commission (Appendix No. 3), from which it will be seen that it was the opinion of practical experienced persons engaged in the Canadian carrying trade and of seafaring men, that a deck load of three feet of deals on a ship which had no spar deck, was not dangerous to the ship in the winter months, and the undersigned is of opinion that the experience of the law passed by the Canadian Parliament in 1873, fully sustains the views held by many persons engaged in this trade with reference to the safety of a moderate deck load of light wood in the winter months.

If deck loads are prohibited from Canada, it will probably again drive shipowners to resort to other means to evade the law as they did in 1860, and he therefore recommends in the event of the Imperial Parliament legislating on this subject that Her Majesty's Government may be requested to take the necessary steps to prevent any Imperial legislation affecting ships clearing from ports in Canada.

<div style="text-align:center">

Respectfully submitted,
(signed)   *A. J. Smith,*
Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

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Sub-Enclosure in No. 29.

ACT of the PARLIAMENT of CANADA.

36th VICTORIA.

CHAP. 56.

AN ACT respecting DECK LOADS.—Assented to 23rd May 1873.

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Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:— *Preamble.*

1. In this Act the word " ship " includes every description of vessel used in navigation, not propelled by oars; and the word " master" includes any person having command or charge of a ship. *" Ship."*

2. Every ship shall be subject to the provisions of this Act,— *When ships shall be subject to this Act.*

(1.) When sailing after the 1st day of October or before the 16th day of March in any year, on a voyage from any port in Canada to any port in Europe, and during the voyage while within Canadian jurisdiction; and

(2). No master of any such ship shall place, or cause or permit to be placed or remain, upon or above any part of the upper deck of such ship, not included within the limits of any break or poop, or any other permanently closed-in space thereon and available for cargo, the tonnage of which forms part of the register tonnage of such ship,— *Certain lading not to be placed on deck.*

(*a.*) Any square, round, waney or other timber;
(*b.*) Any more than five spare spars, or store spars, made, dressed and finally prepared for use, or not so dressed and prepared;
(*c.*) Any cargo of any description, to any height exceeding three feet above the deck.

3. Every ship shall be subject to the provisions of this Act— *Ships sailing to the West Indies.*

(1.) When sailing after the 15th day of November, or before the 16th day of March in any year, on a voyage from any port in Canada, to any port in the West Indies, and during the voyage while within Canadian jurisdiction; and

(2.) No master of any such ship, if she be a single-decked vessel, shall place, or cause or permit, any cargo whatever to be placed or remain upon or above the deck to a height exceeding by more than six inches that of the main rail, nor in any case greater than four feet six inches above the deck, nor if she has a spar deck shall he place, or cause or permit to be placed or remain, any cargo on or above any part of such spar deck; except that this provision shall not be understood to prevent such master from carrying two spare spars or store spars, made, dressed, and finally prepared for use, on the deck or on the spar deck of such vessel. *Certain modes of carrying cargo forbidden. Exception.*

187.   F   4. Provided