

That with reference to the general question of seaworthiness of Canadian ships, he remarks that nearly all the seagoing vessels of Canada are classed either in British Lloyd's, French Bureau Veritas, or American Lloyd's, which is a good guarantee of their strength and seagoing qualities, and he is now considering the propriety of recommending the adoption of rules and regulations for the voluntary inspection and classification of Canadian ships by the Canadian Government, provided for in the 54th section of the Canadian Act, 36 Vict. c. 128, in order that Canada might have the advantage of possessing a national institution of its own for the classification of its shipping; the rapid growth of its mercantile marine and the large amount of Canadian capital now invested in this interest appearing to require such additional facilities for the classification of its shipping.

The Minister therefore recommends that Her Majesty's Government be requested to urge on Parliament the exemption of Canadian shipping from the operation of any of the provisions contained in the amendments proposed by Mr. Plimsoll until the Canadian Government and Canadian shipowners have had an opportunity of considering such provisions.

In the event of any compulsory official inspection being imposed in the United Kingdom on British ships generally, he presumes the classification of Canadian ships by officers of the Government of Canada, if such a system is adopted, would be accepted by the authorities of the British Government as equivalent to official inspection of the United Kingdom, in the same manner as the official examination of masters and mates by the Government of Canada is accepted by the British Government as equivalent to the official examination of such persons by the officers of the Imperial Board of Trade.

The Committee concur in the foregoing Report, and recommend that a copy of this Minute and documents appended be transmitted to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Certified,

(signed) *W. A. Himsworth,*
Clerk Privy Council, Canada.

-- No. 11. --

(M. 7311.)

Colonial Office to Board of Trade.

Sir,

Downing-street, 11 May 1875.

WITH reference to your letter of the 26th of April, I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Board of Trade, a copy of a Despatch from the Governor General of Canada, enclosing a Report of a Committee of the Privy Council relating to the Merchant Shipping Bill now before Parliament, and to certain proposed amendments thereto.

See ante, No. 10.

I am, &c.

The Assistant Secretary,
Marine Department, Board of Trade.

(signed) *W. R. Malcolm.*

-- No. 12. --

(M. 11,185.)

Colonial Office to Board of Trade.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 July 1875.

WITH reference to the notice given by Mr. Reed, M.P., of his intention to move an instruction to the Committee on the Unseaworthy Ships Bill, I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to request that you will remind the Board of Trade of the desire of the Canadian Government, as conveyed in the letter from this Department of the 11th May, that any Imperial legislation on the subjects referred to in Mr. Reed's notice of motion should not be made applicable to Canadian shipping until the Canadian Government and shipowners have had an opportunity of considering such provisions.

See ante, No. 11.

Lord Carnarvon believes that the Board of Trade are aware that Mr. William Smith, the Canadian Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, is in this country, and he may be able to give some explanation of the views of his Government on a question as to which Lord Carnarvon does not desire to offer an opinion.

I am, &c.

The Assistant Secretary,
Marine Department, Board of Trade.

(signed) *R. H. Meade.*