

under the part of the Act which refers to the construction and inspection of ships. General regulations dealing with the construction and inspection of the hulls of steamships are now under consideration, and the matter of sub-division will be dealt with in them.

The Canadian authorities will not be in a position to have these regulations in force before the end of the season of navigation this year for passenger ships employed on the Great Lakes, plying to United States ports. It is understood, however, that there are few such ships, and that their season of navigation ends not later than the 30th of September.

As most of the passenger ships making voyages on the Great Lakes from Canadian to United States ports are old ships, there is doubt in the minds of the Canadian technical officers as to whether it would be reasonable and practicable to have them comply fully with the sub-division regulations laid down by the United States authorities, which are based, generally, on the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea. The Canadian authorities would appreciate if information could be obtained as to what action the United States authorities propose to take in the matter of such ships of United States registry.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

O. D. SKELTON

for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

*The United States Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at Ottawa to the
Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 819

OTTAWA, CANADA,

October 22, 1938.

SIR:

With reference to Dr. Skelton's note No. 125, dated August 24, 1938, in the matter of load-line regulations applicable to the Great Lakes, I have the honor to inform you that the American authorities have noted that the Canadian Government recognizes that the load-line regulations of the United States applicable to vessels making voyages on the Great Lakes of North America are equivalent to Canadian "Load-line Rules for Ships Making Voyages on Lakes or Rivers", approved by Order-in-Council on the 6th of August, 1937, except as to subdivision load-lines applicable to passenger vessels.

The American authorities have noted also that the Canadian Government will not be in a position to have in force subdivision load-line regulations applicable to vessels of the Great Lakes before the close of navigation this year. In this regard, when the subdivision load-line regulations are issued by the Canadian authorities, the competent American authorities must give consideration to them before accepting them as being equal to the United States subdivision load-line regulations.

The American Government will appreciate, therefore, receiving copies of these subdivision load-line regulations as soon as possible after they are issued.

With regard to the request contained in Dr. Skelton's note under reference for information as to the procedure for marking existing passenger vessels with