

from thence to Ogdensburgh, by a river barge, I beg to inform you that I do not perceive how you have violated the coasting laws of the United States, or upon what grounds the seizure has been made.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

Messrs. Rae, Brothers & Co., }
Hamilton, U. C. }

HAMILTON, Canada West, }
Feb. 20, 1857. }

Hon. W. L. Marcy, Secretary, Washington, U.S.

SIR,—We trust you will not consider us troublesome, in asking a reply to the following questions:

1st. If we loaded one or more of our vessels, (British bottoms,) at Chicago, or any other American port in our inland waters, for Ogdensburgh, and enter said cargoes at a British port *in transitu*, such as St. Catharines or Kingston, discharge cargo at such British port, and tranship afterwards per same vessel, or in a river barge for port of destination, will such an act be considered by your government as a violation of the coasting trade?

2nd. Can British or Canadian vessels carry grain from one American port to another, on payment of 50 cents a ton, tonnage dues at the port of destination, without being liable to seizure or confiscation?

3rd. Is the tonnage due payable on Custom House or carpenters measurement?

Waiting your reply,

We have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed)

RAE, Bro's. & Co.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, }
February 25, 1857, }

GENTLEMEN—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and in reply, to inform you that the 4th section of the Navigation Act of the United States, approved March 1st, 1817, prohibits vessels belonging in whole or in part to a subject of any foreign power, from engaging in the coasting trade of the United States, under penalty of the forfeiture of the Merchandize on board, and the Department regards the shipment of merchandize in a foreign vessel, from a port in the United States, by the way of any port in the British Provinces, though said merchandize may be transhipped at said port, as a violation of said Navigation Act, if it is brought to its port of destination, either in the same or in another foreign vessel.

Very respectfully,

JAMES GUTHRIE.

Secretary of the Treasury.

Messrs. Rae, Brothers, & Co., }
Hamilton, C. W. }