

22nd October, 1875, transmitting a letter from the Board of Trade with copy of the "Merchant Shipping Act, 1875," and requesting to be furnished with an immediate report of any case in which grain, &c., was shipped in British vessels in contravention of the Act referred to, and in such manner as to endanger human life.

They have also had before them the Report, dated 8th February, 1876, from the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to whom the above mentioned despatch and its enclosures were referred, and they respectfully submit their concurrence therein, and advise that a copy thereof and of this minute be transmitted for the information of Lord Carnarvon.

Certified.

(Signed),

W. A. HIMSWORTH.

Clerk, Privy Council.

UNSEAWORTHY SHIPS.—38 & 39 VICT.

CHAPTER 88.

An Act to make provision for giving further powers to the Board of Trade for stopping unseaworthy ships.

[13th August 1875.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. The Board of Trade may forthwith and from time to time by special order appoint a sufficient number of fit and proper persons, from their own staff or otherwise, to be officers having authority to detain unseaworthy ships, and may from time to time revoke any such appointment.

If any officer so appointed has reason to believe upon inspection or otherwise that any British ship is by reason of the defective condition of her hull, equipments, or machinery, or by reason of overloading or improper loading, unfit to proceed to sea without serious danger to human life, he may order that the ship be detained for the purpose of being surveyed.

Any such order shall have the same effect as if it were an order of the Board of Trade under section twelve of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1873.

For the purpose of ascertaining whether a British ship is fit to proceed to sea, any officer so appointed may go on board the ship and inspect the same, or any part thereof, or any of the machinery, boats, equipments, or other articles on board thereof, not unnecessarily detaining or delaying her from proceeding on her voyage; and any person who wilfully impedes him in the execution of his duty shall be liable to the same penalties, and may be dealt with in the same manner as if the officer were an inspector appointed by the Board of Trade under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854.

When any officer so appointed orders a ship to be detained he shall forthwith report his proceedings to the Board of Trade.

An officer so appointed shall receive such remuneration for his services under this Act as the Treasury from time to time direct, and such remuneration shall be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament.

2. Whenever a complaint is made to the Board of Trade or to any officer so appointed by one-fourth of the seamen belonging to any British ship, that the ship is by reason of the defective condition of her hull, equipments, or machinery, or by reason of overloading or improper loading, unfit to proceed to sea without serious danger to human life, it shall be the duty of the Board or officer, as the case may be, if the complaint is made within time sufficient for that purpose before the sailing of the ship, without requiring any security for the payment of costs and expenses, to take proper steps for ascertaining whether the ship ought to be detained for the purpose of being surveyed under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1873.