

## EXPLANATORY NOTES.

Up to the time the Statute of Westminster was adopted, the legislative autonomy of Canada, in matters relating to merchant shipping, was circumscribed by the provisions of the Colonial Laws Validity Act and by sections 735 and 736 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, by the fact that the Dominion might not give extra-territorial effect to its legislation.

The B. N. A. Act gave the legislature of the Dominion express power to legislate in matters relating to shipping but subject to the British Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, which was later revised and consolidated in 1894.

Section two of the Statute of Westminster having declared that the Colonial Laws Validity Act shall not in future apply to any law made by the Parliament of a Dominion; and section three having given the Parliaments of the Dominions full power to make laws having extra-territorial operation; and the Statute of Westminster having further stated that sections 735 and 736 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, should be construed as though reference therein to the Legislature of a British possession did not include reference to the Parliament of a Dominion, the Dominion of Canada is now empowered to legislate as it deems fit, in matters relating to merchant shipping.

The Canada Shipping Act was formerly divided as follows:—

PART I —Registration and Classification of Ships, 3-72.

PART II —Masters and Mates, 73-123.

PART III —Seamen, 124-326.

PART IV —Shipping of Seamen on Inland Waters, 327-381.

PART V —Sick and Distressed Mariners, 382-390.

PART VI —Pilotage, 391-544.

PART VII —Steamboat Inspection—Examination and Licensing of Engineers, 545-667.

PART VIII—Inspection of Ships, 668-682.

PART IX —Safety of Ships and Prevention of Accidents on Board thereof, 683-712.

PART X —Wrecks, Salvage and Investigations into Shipping Casualties, 713-813.

PART XI —Lighthouses, Buoys and Beacons and Sable Island, 814-829.

PART XII —Public Harbours and Harbour Masters, 830-850

PART XIII—Port Wardens, 851-893.

PART XIV—Navigation of Canadian Waters, 894-911.

PART XV —Deck and Load Lines, 912-931.

PART XVI—Coasting Trade of Canada, 932-940.

PART XVII—Liabilities of Carriers by Water, 941-946.

PART XVIII—Supplement, 947-950.