

— No. 10. —

The Earl of *Dufferin* to the Earl of *Carnarvon*.

Canada.

My Lord,

Government House, Ottawa, 23 April 1875.

ON the 12th instant I informed your Lordship by telegraph that my Government entertained great objections to certain amendments to the Merchant Shipping Act reported to have been introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Plimsoll, and that they asked for the good services of Her Majesty's Government in delaying the passage of such proposals until time was afforded for a more detailed remonstrance to be sent to England.

I have now the honour to enclose a copy of a Report of a Committee of my Privy Council on that subject, which I have no doubt will receive due consideration at your Lordship's hands.

The Right Honourable the
Earl of Carnarvon.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dufferin*.

Enclosure in No. 10.

COPY of a REPORT of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General, on the 22nd April 1875.

THE Committee of Council have had under consideration a Report of the 20th April 1875 from the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, having reference to the Reports to Council of his predecessor, of the 10th and 14th May 1873, recommending that Her Majesty's Government be requested to urge upon Parliament the exemption of Canadian shipping from the operation of the Plimsoll Bill, as the passage of such Bill might injuriously affect Canadian shipping, and hold out inducements to transfer a large portion of the tonnage of Canada to foreign flags; and having also reference to his Report to Council, dated the 5th instant, stating that he had received information that a Bill was again before Parliament relating to the same subject, recommending that the British Government be requested by telegram to urge on the Imperial Parliament the exemption of Canadian shipping from the operation of such Bill, as he understood it might seriously affect the interests of such shipping.

The Minister states that, although he has not been able to see a copy of the amendments proposed by Mr. Plimsoll to the Imperial Merchant Shipping Bill, he has seen notices of such proposed amendments in the newspapers, from which it appears that such amendments, if carried, would seriously affect the interests of Canadian ships, while in the United Kingdom, by subjecting them to compulsory inspection and restrictions with reference to deck-loading, freeboard, and seaworthiness.

That as the shipping registered in Canada now amounts to 6,930 vessels, measuring 1,158,363 tons register, of an estimated value of 34,750,890 dollars, a large portion of such shipping being seagoing vessels, trading to and from the United Kingdom, he is of opinion that it is very important, where such a large Canadian interest is affected, that no Imperial legislation should be enacted affecting such interest until the Canadian Government has been afforded an opportunity of expressing an opinion on such proposed legislation, which would affect such a large amount of capital as is invested in this particular interest.

That with reference to deck loads, the Canadian Parliament has already considered this subject, and has provided legislation on it, restricting deck loads on vessels leaving Canada during certain seasons of the year. A copy of the Act is herewith annexed.

That with reference to freeboard and overloading with grain and other cargoes, at Montreal, the principal grain-loading port in the Dominion, Parliament has already provided legislation on this subject, and the restrictions imposed have been found to be most advantageous to the safety of life and property. A copy of the Act is also herewith annexed.

That similar restrictions are also imposed at Quebec, and a General Port Wardens Act was past last year, extending the principles of the Montreal and Quebec Acts to such ports in the Dominion as may be brought under it by an order of the Governor in Council.

That the ports of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Victoria, British Columbia, have recently been brought under the operation of this Act, a copy of which is herewith annexed.

That