

experiments to be made by the Officers of Portsmouth Dock Yard, and these having fully succeeded, orders were soon after issued that all the bulkheads of Magazines of Ships of War, and the other bulkheads below, and also the timber of all kinds used in the vicinity of the fires in War Steamers, should be prepared with the solution in question, and to effect this purpose there are two powerful hydraulic machines at work in Portsmouth and Chatham Dockyards, capable of impregnating eighteen loads of timber daily.

I fear I have already detained your Lordship too long on this subject, but I was desirous of shewing you that it is no ephemeral matter I am endeavouring to bring under your notice, and I feel confident that Lord Haddington and Admiral Sir George Cockburn, or the Board of Admiralty generally, will fully confirm all I have advanced on the subject, and I shall be ready to afford your Lordship any further information you may desire on this important business, for it is not applicable to Quebec alone, but to most of our other Colonies, though more especially to those of North America, and to any place where wood is used.

In order to give your Lordship some idea of the value of the preparation in question, I beg to send you some pieces of wood saved from a large log prepared in Portsmouth Dockyard with the minimum quantity required for rendering it unflammable, and also a piece of canvass in the same state, by placing a portion of either in the flame of a candle or lamp, you will at once see the effect.

The accompanying pamphlet will shew your Lordship how extensively and successfully it is used.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. BURNETT.

*Director General of the Medical Department of the Navy.*

The Right Honble. LORD STANLEY.

*Extract from Mr. Jones's Letter of 21st August, 1845.*

"In reference to the conversation wherewith you honored me yesterday, respecting the employment of certain prepared woods in the rebuilding of Quebec and the formation of railways in Canada, I beg to state, that if it were determined to send out either Sir W. Burnett's or Payne's Apparatus, I apprehend there would still be time to do so previous to the departure of the last fall ships for the St. Lawrence, at the cost of about a thousand pounds, and really when one reflects on the enormous expenditure which is said to have attended the transport of a single 24 pounder during the last American War, in winter time, from Montreal to Kingston, and that the object of the present suggested outlay would be an eminent and timely beneficial one, I would venture respectfully to press it on the consideration of Government. It is a plan indeed which I feel so much confidence in myself as to have the desire to undertake it as a financial speculation, if I had the funds conveniently at hand to do so.

Since writing thus far I have been called on by the Secretary of Sir W. Burnett's Company, who says he would undertake the shipment of an apparatus on their plan this season, which Payne will not, as he requires three months' preparation, and says there are six prepared for the Russian Government which it has taken twelve months to complete.

I venture no opinion on the respective merits of these rival processes, but am satisfied that either process would prevent the fibrous portions of the wood from flaming, and thus afford the desired security from sudden and extensive ignition.

Should it be considered desirable to send out specimens of either or both of the modes of preparation to the Governor General, they can be had by reference to the respective patentees.

The two tremendous calamities which have occurred so closely on each other at the ill-fated place in question, may be regarded as of a public nature, but a great portion