

then that due consideration be given to the representations contained in the annexed Petition from the St. John Board of Trade in relation to the Load Line of Canadian ships as compared with iron ships.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed),

P. MITCHELL,  
*Minister of Marine and Fisheries.*

DOWNING STREET,  
3rd December, 1873.

SIR,—I transmit herewith, for your information and guidance, and for general publication in the colony under your Government, a copy of a letter from the Board of Trade, enclosing a copy of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1873, and of instructions issued by that Department to Registrars and other officers in the British possessions abroad.

With regard to the 12th and 13th Sections, relating to the survey of unseaworthy ships, I have to request that you will point out to your responsible advisers that it is desirable that steps should be taken at an early period to cause a law to be passed in the Colony under your Government giving similar powers to the proper authority within the Colony to that which is by these Sections given to the Board of Trade.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed), KIMBERLEY.

*Board of Trade to the Colonial Office.*

BOARD OF TRADE,  
WHITEHALL GARDENS, 8th September, 1873.

*Merchant Shipping Act, 1873.*

REGISTRY.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit a copy of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1873, and to request that you will call the attention of the Earl of Kimberley to the 3rd Section, by which every British ship is required to be marked to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade with certain particulars, including a scale of feet denoting her draft of water.

An offence against this section is punishable by a penalty of One Hundred Pounds.

I am also to call attention to Sections 16 and 17, relating to the duties of Masters in cases of collision, and to state that the Board of Trade, being strongly impressed with the importance of carrying into effect these provisions as far as possible at home and abroad, direct me to request that you will move his Lordship to bring them to the notice of the Governors or Administrators of the various British possessions, with instructions to take such steps as may be practicable for their general publication, and for the detection and punishment of offences against them.

With regard to the 12th and 13th Sections relating to the survey of unseaworthy ships, I am to request you to suggest to his Lordship that it is very advisable that Acts or Ordinances should be passed in the various Colonies giving similar power to the Governors, Administrators or other Authorities, to that which is by these sections given to the Board of Trade.