
RETURN

To an ADDRESS of the HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated 15th March, 1875 :—For copies of all papers, despatches, minutes of Council and correspondence had with Her Majesty's Government in relation to the Legislation which was under the consideration of the Imperial Parliament in relation to British Merchant Shipping from 1871 to the end of 1874, in connection with the so-called Plimsoll movement, also in connection with the proposed Legislative measure in relation to Merchant Shipping at present proposed by Her Majesty's Government; also all papers, minutes of Council and despatches had between the Government of Canada and Her Majesty's Government protesting against any Legislation which would affect Canadian Shipping.

By command.

R. W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
OTTAWA, 31st March, 1875.

OTTAWA, 7th March, 1872.

The undersigned begs to report to Council that a Memorial has recently been received from merchants and ship-owners of Halifax, representing the great necessity which exists for the appointment of a shipping-master at that port. As the law at present stands there is no provision made for the appointment of such an officer at Halifax, or, any other port in Nova Scotia, and special legislation would be necessary in order to such appointment. The Board of Trade in London requested, with reference to Merchant Shipping Bills, that legislation thereon as regards vital points be suspended until the Merchant Shipping Code Bill which has been under the consideration of the Imperial Parliament for some years past should have become Law. The undersigned is of opinion that it would be very desirable to avoid legislation of a general character with reference to shipping of seamen, until the action of the Imperial Parliament on the measure under their consideration was obtained. The delay, however, has now extended over three years, and the undersigned thinks it desirable that Her Majesty's Government should be asked through the proper channel whether there is any probability of the Bill referred to receiving the sanction of the Imperial