
from one foreign port to another, as it would certainly give an undue advantage to the foreign ship over the British ship, and would thereby have the effect of depriving British ships of the benefit of the foreign carrying trade which they now enjoy to a large extent; and he would respectfully suggest, as a subject well worthy of the consideration of the British Government, whether it might not be advisable to enter into negotiations with foreign Governments with the view of inducing them to adopt legislation similar to that which has been or may be adopted by the Imperial Parliament for the safety and protection of life and property.

The undersigned also recommends that the Imperial authorities may be requested to furnish the Canadian Government with an advance copy of the proposed Merchant Shipping Bill of 1876 as soon as it is printed, in order that they may have an opportunity of ascertaining whether it contains any provisions objectionable to Canadian shipping; and, if so, that such action may be taken in the premises as the Government may consider necessary for the protection of Canadian interests, by the appointment of an authorized agent to confer with the Imperial authorities in London while the Bill is under discussion in Parliament, or otherwise, as may be deemed advisable.

The undersigned would suggest that Lord Carnarvon be consulted as to the desirability of this Government being represented by an Agent as above indicated, and if this course meets his approval, that he be requested to name the time when, in his opinion, the Agent should be in London.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed),

A. J. SMITH,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries