

vided a British ship maintained the proportion of three-fourths British seamen to one-fourth foreign seamen, it might carry as many or as few seamen, in proportion to the tonnage, as the owners pleased. It was only when the first-mentioned proportion was violated, and more than one-fourth foreign seamen were maintained on board a British ship, that it became necessary to have a certain number of British seamen to the tonnage. But he apprehended that this latter restriction would practically be found seldom to come into operation.

Mr. FORSTER had expected that the Government would have taken advantage of the present opportunity to explain their intentions with respect to the light dues.

Mr. LABOUCHERE observed, that he did intend in the course of the evening to call upon the House to take some preliminary steps to enable him to bring in a Bill with respect to the light dues, but he thought it best not to mix up the one subject with the other.

In reply to Mr. HUME,

Mr. LABOUCHERE said, that Ceylon would be treated as any other British colony.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that he intended to act in accordance with the general feeling, not to enter into a discussion until after the plan of the Government was laid before the House, and some short delay allowed for consideration, and would now only ask, for the further elucidation of the Government plan, for information on one or two points.