

Enclosure in No. 17.

Board of Trade to the Colonial Office.

Board of Trade, Whitehall Gardens,
11 August 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to enclose a copy of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1875," and to request your attention to the 3rd section of this Act, relating to the carriage of grain and other seeds or nuts in British ships.

I am to suggest that a copy of this Act should be sent to the Governors of all Colonies from which grain is shipped.

I am further to suggest that instructions may be given to cause an immediate report to be sent to the Board of Trade of any case in which grain, &c., is shipped in British vessels in contravention of the Act, and in such a manner as to endanger human life.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Thomas Gray.*

— No. 18. —

The Earl of *Dufferin* to the Earl of *Carnarvon*.

Canada.

My Lord,

Ottawa, 10 February 1876.

IN reply to your Lordship's Circular Despatch of the 22nd of October last on the subject of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1875, I have the honour to enclose a copy of a Minute of my Privy Council, to which is attached a Report from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

2. Your Lordship will observe that, in reference to the desire expressed by your Lordship to be furnished with a Report of any cases in which the Merchant Shipping Act, 1875, had been contravened in Canada, the Minister of Marine states that as the Canadian Acts by which the Merchant Shipping of Canada is regulated are not only in accordance with the Imperial Act referred to, but are more stringent in their provisions, and are strictly enforced, it is not possible that such cases can have occurred. From this statement, however, are excepted those vessels which carry grain on inland Canadian waters, as they are not subject to the same inspection.

3. I shall wish especially to call your Lordship's attention to the representations made by the Minister of Marine in reference to the apprehensions felt by Canadian shipowners with regard to the disabilities under which it is believed that Canadian vessels as compared with vessels of foreign countries, will be placed by the operation of the Imperial Act in question; and I should feel much obliged if your Lordship, at your earliest convenience, would enable me to inform my Ministers of your opinion as to the desirability of their being represented in London by an agent in the manner suggested by the Minister of Marine; and your Lordship would also confer a favour upon me if, in consideration of the important bearing which the proposed legislation has upon Canadian interest, you could cause steps to be taken by which my Ministry, in accordance with their desire, might be put in possession of copies in advance of the Bill relating to merchant shipping, which it is intended to introduce this year into the Imperial Legislature.

The Right Honourable The Earl of Carnarvon,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Dufferin.*