

REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING APPOINTMENT BY DOMINION GOVERNMENT  
OF A NEW SHIPPING MASTER.

Upon the office of shipping master becoming vacant, the Council, at the instance of the Shipping Interest, addressed the Government, recommending its abolition and a reversion to the practice of former years when the duties were performed by Custom House Officers, and thus the fees for the service now levied on ships be avoided. The Government's reply said, however, "that the business of the office had grown to such dimensions, and was of so much importance, that its duties could not be efficiently discharged by the Collector of Customs as formerly, and that a separate office, under a duly appointed shipping master, would be a great advantage." The Council then endorsed and forwarded a requisition from the Shipping Interest for the appointment of the gentleman therein named.

While the Council greatly regretted that the recommendation of those most concerned and best qualified to judge of the candidates' qualifications for the shipping mastership was not adopted by the Government, it never contemplated taking exception to the Government's decision, for that would be to assume that the Government is bound to appoint, to offices entirely under its control, the Board's nominee. This view of the matter was not, however, concurred in by some of the general members of the Board, for a requisition signed by one hundred members was presented to the President for a special general meeting of the Board "to take such action respecting the recent appointment of a shipping master as the meeting may see fit. This left the President no alternative, and the meeting was therefore held, two resolutions being adopted thereat, one urging the Government to reconsider its decision in the matter, and to make the appointment suggested and approved of by the Shipping Interest and the Council of the Board of Trade, the other requesting the senior member for Montreal to bring the question before Parliament with the view of ascertaining its opinion as to how far the recommendations of commercial bodies should govern appointments in such cases. The Government's reply to the first resolution said that the Minister was at a loss to understand the ground of the objection of the Board, and therefore unable to bring to the notice of His Excellency in Council the subject of the Board's complaint. The senior member (Hon. Mr. Curran) wrote respecting the second resolution that he had sent it to the proper quarter so that the Board's views might be known to the Government.