

U. S. Marine Inspection and Navigation, Bureau
(COMMISSIONER OF NAVIGATION.)

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING,

In response to a resolution of the House, a report of the Commissioner of Navigation relative to the use of the Welland Canal.

JULY 24, 1888.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, July 23, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution of the House, dated June 8, 1888, relating to the use of the Welland Canal.

As a reply I transmit herewith a report of this date upon the subject from the Commissioner of Navigation. It appears therefrom that an order has been issued by the authorities of the Dominion of Canada, and is now in force, by which vessels from ports of the United States, laden with wheat or other merchandise for export or otherwise, are required to pay less toll in passing through the Welland Canal when they pursue their voyage by way of the St. Lawrence River and Montreal, than when they pursue their voyage by way of Lake Ontario and American ports. The Canadian regulations operate as a discrimination against American ports, American railroads and canals, and American vessels.

The matter was brought to the attention of Congress in the report of the Commissioner of Navigation for 1887, and in the letter addressed to you January 23, 1888, and the attention of the Secretary of State has been invited to the subject.

In answer to the inquiry embodied in the resolution, I have to state that further legislation will be necessary if tolls are to be imposed by the Secretary of the Treasury upon vessels passing through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal or the St. Clair Flats Canal, and bound for Canadian ports east of the Welland Canal.

Respectfully, yours,

HUGH S. THOMPSON,
Acting Secretary.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.