

of the Government, into the situation of each mill, in order to ascertain the practicability and cost of compliance in each instance with the requirements of the said statute. Several communications have been had with the mill-owners during the course of such investigation; and it has been generally understood that the manufacturers admit the necessity and recognize the practicability of so disposing of other mill offals (excepting sawdust) as to avoid all possibility of further injuring navigation. The suggestion made by Mr. Mather regarding alterations in the several mills have also been made known to you, and have formed the subject of discussion between the minister and the mill-owners as well as amongst themselves and Mr. Mather. It is also within your knowledge that while the practicability of burning the sawdust has been satisfactorily shown, the estimated expense of constructing furnaces, &c., appears to be very formidable. The Government, as you are aware, desire to avoid requiring such a serious outlay on the part of the proprietors if the public interest can be otherwise protected. They also feel desirous to relieve the mill-owners from further anxiety and danger of prosecution as respects the disposal of sawdust.

It is proposed therefore to require certain alterations to be made in each mill to ensue the better observance of the law affecting other mill rubbish; and upon the Minister being certified that such have been made he will be prepared to recommend formal exemption in the matter of sawdust as provided by the statute.

These alterations are as follows:—

1st. Spouts should be constructed at the upper end of all logways to carry off the bark brought up by the jack ladders; these spouts should be so made that nothing over two feet long could pass through and reach the water.

2nd. The floor next under the sawing floor, should be laid close all over, except a hatch to enable workmen to reach the water wheels. The hatch should not be near the saw-gates.

3rd. Saw-gates should have fixed racks in the lower floor, surrounding the pitman, the opening in the racks should not be more than one inch wide.

4th. All circular saws should have the openings under them filled with gratings, the openings of which should not be more than one inch square, and in addition should have crooked spouts to reach through the floor immediately below, so constructed that nothing over one foot long could pass through.

5th. All mill windows overlooking the water should be covered with wire netting with meshes one inch square.

6th. Fences should be put round all yards and platforms contiguous to the water whenever it can be done without interfering with the operations of mills.

Mr. Mather has been instructed to see that these conditions are fulfilled at each mill before another season's sawing shall be commenced, and he is authorized to modify or otherwise adapt them to the situation or special circumstances of each mill, according to his discretion, so long as the main object is fully attained. He is required to report progress, so that the Government may judge of the diligence observed and be enabled to take any such alternative action as appears necessary.

There is reason to hope, however, that no further difficulty will arise, but that the present measure of justice to the public and relief to the mill-owners will now be met with a prompt and effectual response.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. WHITCHER.

Commissioner of Fisheries.

To Mr. _____