

Petitions have been transmitted to Her Majesty the Queen, to His Excellency the Governor General, and to the Legislature, praying that in the event of alterations being effected in the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, provision may be made for the admission of British shipping to the American Registry, and to a participation in the coasting trade of the United States. Copies of the petition have been forwarded to the various Boards of Trade in Canada and in the Lower Provinces, as well as to the Chambers of Commerce of the leading ports in Great Britain and Ireland.

The extension by the French Government, to Canadian built ships, of the privileges enjoyed by ships of British build, will no doubt prove advantageous to the ship-building interests of this port. The number of vessels now building here is 25, measuring 21,000 tons. The number on the stocks last year at the same date was 18 measuring 18,000 tons, shewing an increase in favor of this year of seven ships and 3,000 tons.

The Council received from several of the leading associations of underwriters in Great Britain, memorials urging the repeal or amendment of the "Pilots' Act." Copies of these memorials have already been laid before you at a quarterly meeting, the originals having been transmitted to the Government at the request of the petitioners. With a view to its improvement the Act has been carefully examined by a special committee and their report has, with some trifling exceptions, been concurred in by the Council.

No further communication has been received from the authorities in regard to the suggestion of the Board, that official enquiry should be made into the causes of accidents to shipping navigating the St. Lawrence. The Council consider the suggestion a most important one and would recommend their successors again to press the matter upon the attention of the Government.

Owing to the energetic steps taken by Mr. Maguire, Inspector and Superintendent of Police, in enforcing the laws relating to the desertion of seamen, but few complaints on the subject have been made during the past year. With some slight amendments the law will so far strengthen his hands as to enable him to reduce very materially any remaining causes of complaint on this head, but in the opinion of the Council the true remedy lies in engaging seamen for the passage out only.

To an application for the approval by the Council of a proposal to incorporate the ship-laborers of this city, under the name of the "Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society," a reply was returned that the Board was not prepared to support the measure; such organizations generally tending to interfere with the freedom of trade and the value of labor. A petition for an act has been presented to the Legislature and it will be for the Council to take steps to prevent a bill being passed.

The Council regret exceedingly to have to remark that notwithstanding the yearly recurring complaints of the unsatisfactory manner in which the ferry service between this city and Point Levi is conducted, there is no immediate prospect of improvement. It was supposed that the city Corporation had taken measures to remedy the evil, but, from recent reports of the proceedings of that body, it would appear that owing to some misunder-

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