

The letters from this Department referred to by the Board of Trade enclosed a copy of your despatch, No. 88, of the 25th March, and a note from Mr. Marshall, of which I enclose a copy.

I have, etc.,  
(Signed),

CARNARVON.

The Governor General,  
Right Hon. the Earl of Dufferin, K.P., K.C.B.

*Mr. Gray to Under Secretary of State, C. O.*

BOARD OF TRADE,  
WHITEHALL GARDENS, 20th April, 1874.

*Merchant Shipping Code—Colonial unseaworthiness.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge receipt of your letters of the 4th and 11th inst., enclosing copy of a letter and enclosures from Mr. Robert Marshall, together with a copy of a despatch and enclosure from the Governor General of Canada relative to Canadian shipping.

In reply I am to state for the information of Earl Carnarvon that the papers in question have been forwarded to the Royal Commission on unseaworthy ships.

The Board are also desirous of learning whether the Canadian Bill with regard to the Government classification of ships in the Dominion is going on or not, and, if it is, in what stage it is now in.

I have, etc.,  
(Signed),

THOMAS GRAY.

The Under-Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

*Mr. Marshall to the Under-Secretary of State, C. O.*

FIRE, MARINE AND LIFE INSURANCE AGENCY,  
ST. JOHN, N.B., 13th March, 1874.

Mr. Robert Marshall's compliments to the Under-Secretary of State, Downing Street, London, England, with a copy of paper upon the Subject of "Canadian Tonnage," endorsed by the Dominion Board of Trade at its meeting recently held at Ottawa, as well as *Globe's* editorial in reference thereto.

OTTAWA, 21st May, 1874.

The undersigned has the honor to report to Council that he has had under consideration despatch from the Earl of Carnarvon (No. 54), of the 23rd April last, transmitting copy of a letter from the Board of Trade, and requesting that a reply might be made to the enquiry contained therein respecting the Bill for the classification of ships in Canada as to whether such Bill was in operation or not, and what stage it was in if in operation.

The undersigned recommends that the Board of Trade be informed through the usual channel that the Government of Canada have not as yet decided to put the provisions of the Act which relate to the inspection and classification of ships practically into operation, and to publish rules and regulations for such inspection and classification of shipping, and that no official action has been taken in the matter since the proclamation of the Act in the *Canada Gazette*.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed), A. J. SMITH,  
Minister of Marine and Fisheries.