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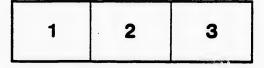
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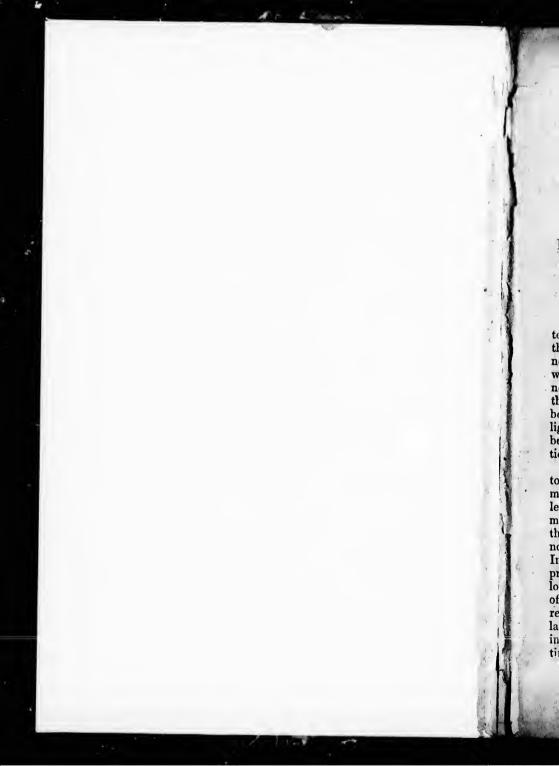
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SOME REMARKS

Plat Bill

36444

IN RELATION WITH MR. TACHE'S BILL ON

Pilotacz,

NOW BEFORE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THIS measure insolves interests of two kinds; the interests of the commerce and navigation, and those of the pilots as a class and as individuals. There is no necessity to insist upon the importance of establishing wise laws to regulate the navigation, but it is perhaps necessary to insist upon the importance of looking into the present state of pilotage for the River St. Lawrence below Quebec, and to urge that any law tending to enlighten, moralize and rise the profession of pilots will be a law calculated to benefit the trade and the navigation of our noble River.

The interest of the trade in relation with pilotage is to get a prompt, effective and regular service, because more regular and better secured will be such a service less there will be accidents in onr waters. And it must be remarked that in account of want about one thing or another the navigation of the St. Lawrence is now heavily taxed with an extraordinary rate of marine Insurance. If the authors of this present memorial proves that in consequence of no regulations for the pilotage, vessels are every year run ashore for the want of Pilots on board when the services of such men are required, we shall have proved that this want of regulation is at least one of the causes of the high rate of insurance : and if this memorial prove at the same time that the number of Pilots is sufficient and that in fact, Pilots are at hand when such vessels suffer from want of their services we shall have proved that all this evil is this the only result of the want af good management.

And to show the necessity of such an examination, let us quote at ounce the bitter complaint of a master of ship, published in the "Morning Chronicle" of the the 20th October 1854.

" Capt. Dutton, of the ship *Britannia*, a Montreal trader at this port, reports :--Spoke the *Canadian* screw steamer, Capt. McMaster, oil the Pilgrims, at noon on the 16th instant. I was off Bic before dark on Suturday evening, the 15th, with a fresh gale from the eastward and saw no pilots--hove to all night,-none in sight. On Sunday morning at 7.30 a. m., bore up for the Brandy Pots, but saw none of the pilot boats on the way and none at the Brandy Pots on Sunday afternoon : likewise on Monday, blowing a fresh gale from the estward till 8 a. m., whereas if I had got a pilot on Saturday evening I should have arrived in Quebec on Sunday evening."

At the present moment Pilots are allowed to go as far as the open Gulf at 300 and even 600 miles from their limits, in places where the St. Lawrence is from 60 to 100 miles across, in boats the greater number of which are totally unfit for the service. The result is that Pilots are constantly missing sight of the ships, and sometimes unable to board those ships when at sight, and when boarding are fatigued and worn out by a long, unnecessary and dangerous navigation through waters far distant from their natural ground. Time after time, the Trinity House of Quebec have tried to prevent such a practice, but from the want of organisation of the Pilots, have failed in those attempts.

Let us quote some of the evils resulting from the above state of things; and if the measure is allowed to pass its second reading and to go before a committee, all the contents of this memorial could be easily proved to the satisfaction of the committee and the House.

It is a fact well known that every year a great number of vessels are reaching the Port of Quebec without Pilots while at the same time a great number of Pilots are uselessly crusing to their own ruination in the waters of the Gulf; it is another fact relevant of the

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one just now stated, that there is generally a greater number of wrecks in ascending the River than in descending and that those wrecks arrive in consequence of want of Pilots's attendance. Few years ago a Brick with passengers after having made signals for Pilots from Bernabé to Bic was oblige to run without having been boarded and did run ashore at Red Island 45 miles inside of the pilotage limits and met with a total lost of lives and property, only 11 persons having been saved. A steamship engaged in the intricate navigation without having been able to procure a Pilot did make to a Bark the proportion of towing her in order to profit of her Pilot, and ultimately was provided by the master of another ship going down, who did allow his Pilot to quit the descending vessel before having done with his duty. In 1851 four ships after having gone through several miles within the Pilots waters without finding any Pilot Boat were forced for their surety to go back to Bic at Pilots limits and to anchor in order to wait for Pilots. Not less than twelve names of vessels can be given, such vessels having been wrecked within the boundery of the Pilots limits descending the River after the master having permitted their Pilots to leave the ship 60 miles above the limits of the pilotage, for fear of encountering difficulties to disembark such Pilots at the limits, Pilot's Boat being in the Gulf. It is a customary thing to see number of vessels at anchor at Brandy-Pot to leave their Pilots, and last year during a favorable wind to continue their voyage not less than 30 ships anchored at this place and in the agglomoration which took place a collision happens and one ship was dismasted and the other greatley damaged.

Here follows a list of ships wrecked under the same circumstances on which in summer were refused for the reason of being deprived of Pilots within the limits at the time and place of the wreck:

LIST OF SHIPS LOST IN PILOTS LIMITS AND HAVING

NO PILOT ON BOARD.

Ship Burnard wrecked at Cape Colombier and all hands lost in 1846.

Ship Sarah, wrecked on Portneuf Shoal in 1845.

Ship Seria, wrecked on Portneuf Shoal in 1845.

Brig Farriant, wrecked at one mile above Cape Columbier in 1845.

Ship Europe, wrecked on Portneuf Shoal in 1848.

Brig Neptune, wrecked on Portneuf Shoal in 1845.

Brig Quebec, wrecked on Penchée Island.

Brig Scotsman, wrecked on the west end of Bicquet in 1847.

Bark Aldrido, wrecked on Red Island Shoal in 1845.

Bark Reper, wrecked on Mille Vaches Schoal, total loss, in 1853.

Ship Welsford, wrecked on Old Bic in 1846.

Brig Donegall, wrecked on Red Island, lost all hands except four saved, in 1844.

Brig Briton, of Withry, struck on Barrett Ledge with a general cargo, total loss, in 1853.

Bark Elizabeth, wrecked on White Island in 1853.

Ship Jane, of Belfast, wrecked on the west end of Bic, total loss, in 1850.

--- Ceylan, wrecked on Bic.

In other circumstances masters unwilling to depart from the services of their Pilots and to undertake the responsability of permitting them to leave above the limits are obliged to cruise and loose time afterwards on account of no Pilot's Boat, being to be found at the limits to disembark pilots.

Those facts are well known by masters and Pilots but generally not reported to owners, consignees and underwriters; still they are, and the cause of a tax on the shipping amounting yearly to more than the whole pilotage fee for the River, besides the increase of the Insurance rate in consequence of accidents thereof.

There is another grievance which bears principally upon our coasting and intercolonial trade with the lower ports, consisting in the detrimental habit of some masters to undertake to carry Pilots in the Gulf with the condition of putting those Pilots on board ships, on condition of a certain price, before reaching the port to which they are sent. Every year accidents are the consequence of that custom. Last year a large schooner freighted for a lower port started from Quebec with 20

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ears principally ears principally e with the lower bit of some mase Gulf with the rd ships, on coning the port to nts are the conlarge schooner Quebec with 20 pilots on board. The condition was that the master of the schooner was obliged to embark every one of those Pilots before reaching his destination : after a cruise of a fortnight there was still several Pilots on board the schooner, when a gale came on, all the crew and the Pilots were worn out by constant day and night cruising, and the schooner met with a complete lost of all lives and Property, twelve Pilots being still on board. By this accident several families lost their support, the true facts were sealed, the Insurance paid the value of the goods, and the consignee who was expecting for those goods and breadstuffs to supply his fishmen was frustrated of carrying his fishing during the best part of the fishing season. Such an occurrence is not a solitary but a yearly one.

Every year a great number of Pilots are perishing in the Gulf and not a single one in their natural waters, last year again besides pilots who have been drowned in single boats and in freighted schooners, one pilot boat has been wrecked, with her crew and with two pilots on board. Accidents are so frequent that the Irinity House which is the trustee of the pilot saving fund have been obliged to lessen to a trifling and insufficient sum the annuity provided for widows and orphans of deceased pilots, rendering to an extent the human and wise provisions of the law inefficious.

Those above-mentioned facts have induced a committee of the Parliament of 1851 to report favorably upon the Petitton of the Pilots praying for relief; and a Bill to incorporate the Pilots did pass in the session of 1852 its second reading, but on account of the immense number of measures before the House, this Bill was surprised by the prorogation beforehaving gone through the other stages. The Bill of 1852 was nevertheless far inferior in its details to the one just now before this present Parliament.

The present Bill has two main features, that is to say two provisions : 10. To keep Pilots within the limits of their own waters ; 20. To allow them to make a Joint Stock Company of their own earnings on equitable footing.

The first provision is for the benefit of the shipping

and the Pilots themselves, and such a necessary regulalation is kept on every country and every well managed Harbour in England, France, United States and elsewhere. The second provision is not an extraordinary one. The Port of Liverpool, we suppose, is second in importance to no one in the world, and we may with perfect safety adopt so much of the regulations of this well managed Port as are adaptable to our own situation.

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Let us look at the " Act for the better regulation and " encouragement of Pilots for the Port of Liverpool." In this act we see : " And be it further enacted, that if, at any time or times hereafter, a majority of licensed pilots of and belonging to the said Port of Liverpool, shall consent and agree to have a joint stock of all their earnings for the benefit of the whole "..... Sc. According to the provisious of this act the commissianners of the port of Liverpool have establishen regulations amangst which articles are headed thus: III Pilots Boats. VIII Stations and Dutics of the first and second Boat. IX of the third Boat. X of the fourth Boat. XII of the sixth Boat, &c., and at XV rule the turn of each pilot boat is regulated and at the XXII rule it is stated : "All Pilots shall repair to their respective boats and proceed in them to their stations It shall be the duty of every Pilot when not actually employed, to attend daily and every day, at such time and place as may be fixed upon and appointed for that purpose by the master of the boat to which he belongs, to received such orders and directions as may then and there be given by the said master, &c.

It is clear that the provisions of the Bill in question is as near as possible similar to those adopted for the port of Liverpool.

Let us look at the objections uttered by the opponents of the measure and let us weigh the value of their reasons. The opposition comes from 40 Pilots out of 270, and from individuals of Quebec, several of them are we must admit at the head of very large commercial houses, but nobody has a right to say; Sic volo, sic jubeo; stat pro ratione volontas. Thus we must look at the reasons alledged. The 40 Pilots who are opposed to the whole body of their brethern contend. 1st. That necessary regulaery well managed d States and elsean extraordinary pose, is second in and we may with he regulations of ble to our own si-

ter regulation and of Liverpool." In nacted, that if, at of licensed pilots verpool, shall conall their carnings According to the iers of the port of is amangst which ats. VIII Stations IX of the third e sixth Boat, &c., boat is regulated il Pilots shall rel in them to their Pilot when not every day, at such nd appointed for which he belongs, may then and

Bill in question adopted for the

ed by the oppoth the value of from 40 Pilots ebec; several of very large comto say; *Sic volo*, s we must look who are opposed tend. 1st. That it is the interest of the shipping to have skillful and respectable pilots; 2d. That the Bill will increase the rate of Insurance in taking of the Pilots the powerful stimulus of private interest; 3rd. That the promiscuity of the Association are a benefit for the lazy pilots to the disadvantage of the industrious; 4th. That it will be a hardship for the owners and masters not to be allowed to choose their own Pilots; 5th. That indolence and want of energy of Pilots tends to prolang the voyages of ships. The allegations of the second petition bearing 37 signatures are absolutely the same in other terms as those of the forty Pilots.

The present memorialists are 200 Pilots, who have petitioned in favor of the Bill, though the Bill requires from them the obligation of keeping boats of a more costly description than the craft just now employed : but they are of opinion that this measure is calculated to increase the respectability of their profession, and a more general happiness amongst themselves. They are supported by the remainder of their brethren and could have procured themselves with a petition largely signed by other parties had they thought that number of signatures of commercial men would have stood against reasoning, but convinced of the contrary, they have taken no other trouble than to give good reasons in support of the Bill.

To answer briefly but categorically to the allegations of the above mentioned petitiens, let us say:

Ist. We know that the respectability of the Pilots are a great guarantee for the shipping, and it is for this very reason that we are in favor of an organisation that will supervise the Pilots, keep order, decency and steadiness in good managed boats; instead of being gangued without law or protection, in private boats, where the brutal force is the only police to resort to; instead of wandering about the Gulf in a ruinous and foolish competition, at far distances from Pilot's waters.

2nd. We have shown how the rate of insurance is increased, and how the Bill is calculated to diminish the proportion of wrecks. As far as stimulus of private interest goes, the Bill will provide for a just approtionment of the earnings, and to take off the portion of each Pilot an adequate sum for absence, insubordination or misconduct.

3rd. The same answer will suffice for this 3rd objection of the opponents, and the Bill is so clear and so explicit that it need not require more explanation. Competition will not be taken off by the Bill. Pilots being divided into two associations, each one competing with the other, it depending upon its own diligence and energy to increase its earnings. Just the same system as adopted in the Port of Liverpool, with the only difference that by the Bill there is only two associations while there is seven associations in Liverpool, the reason being that the number of Pilots is less, the season only six months and the roadsted longer.

4th. By the Bill masters and owners of ships will be as well as before allowed to choose their Pilots for the going down, and will be obliged as they are now to take the first Pilot boarding at sea. No hardships on that account.

5th. We agree with the opponents when they state that indolence is bad, but we assert that there is now indolence about Pilots, and if some it will be put down if the Bill do pass, because Pilots will be forced to do their duty or to abandon their profession, and it will be for the benefit of the trade, for the shipping and for the Pilots: because just now mere chance or favor can do a good, energetic Pilot a poor disearthed man. We can point out the names of several of the best Pilots who have been forced to cruise, day and night, through good and bad weather, in the Gulf, seven weeks long, before being able to board a ship, while ships were wanting Pilots in the very limits of pilotage.

We hope that an enquiry before the committe after the second reading of the Bill will prove everything alledged in this memorial, and will show the true reason of the opposition to this good public measure.

Since the preparation of this Memorial, a Committee of the House reported on the matter, and every one of the above propositions agreed to be true by the Committee. [See Appendice of Journal of the House, Session 1852-1853.]

(Signers : 200 Pilots who have petitionned.)

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