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FREDERICTON, N.B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1852.

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All Official Notifications appearing in this Paper, duly authenticated, are to be received as such by the persons whom they may concern

BY AUTHORITY.

[CIRCULAR.]

Downing Street, 5th March, 1852.

(Copy)

SIR,—I transmit for your information and guidance, the copy of a Letter addressed to this Department by direction of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, by which it appears that their Lordships have exercised certain powers, with which they are entrusted under the authority of the Act 14 and 15 Vic. c. 96, by dispensing with so much of the Acts 7 and 8 Vic. c. 112, as relates to the use of Lime or Lemon Juice, Sugar or Vinegar, in Ships bound to any Ports on the Eastern Coast of North America, whether in the British Colonies or in the United States, or to any Ports situate in Islands in the Atlantic, north of the same limits.

In order, therefore, to obviate the inconvenience to which their Lordships advert, I have to instruct you to take such measures as may appear to you necessary, for making known the dispensation above referred to, to the Magistrates in the Colony under your government. I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN S. PAKINGTON.

Lieut. Governor Sir Edmund Head, Bt., &c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure in Circular, dated March 5, 1852.)

*Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
Whitehall, 21st February, 1852.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, to transmit to you the accompanying copy of the Act 14 and 15 Vic. c. 96, and I am to request that you will call the attention of Earl Grey to the 19th section, by which my Lords are entrusted with certain powers relating to the use of Lime and Lemon Juice in Merchant Ships, and inform His Lordship that my Lords have exercised this power by dispensing with so much of the Act 7 and 8 Vic. c. 112, section 18, as relates to the use of Lime or Lemon Juice, Sugar or Vinegar, in Ships bound to any Ports on the Eastern Coast of North America, whether such Ports are in the British Colonies or in the United States, or to any Ports situate in Islands in the Atlantic, north of the same limits.

As the observance of the provisions of the Merchant Seaman's Act thus dispensed with, constitutes a subject of frequent litigation before the Magistrates in the North American Colonies, I am to request you to move Earl Grey to take into consideration the expediency of adopting such measures as he may consider necessary, in order to make the dispensation, above mentioned, known to the Colonial Magistrates. I am, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES BOOTH.

H. Merivale, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

CAP. XCVI.

An Act to amend the Mercantile Marine Act, 1850.

[7th August 1851.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Mercantile Marine Act, 1850: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

I. This Act may be cited as the "Mercantile Marine Act Amendment Act, 1851," and shall come into operation immediately on the passing thereof.

II. This Act shall, so far as is consistent with the Contents and Subject Matter thereof, be taken as Part of and construed with the said Mercantile Marine Act, 1850.

III. If any Local Marine Board, by reason of any Election not taking place, or of the simultaneous Resignation or constant Non-attendance of all or the greater Part of the Members, or from any other Cause, fails to meet or to discharge its Duties, the Board of Trade may in its Discretion either take into its own Hands the

Performance of the Duties of such Local Marine Board until the next triennial Appointment and Election thereof, or direct that a new Appointment and Election of such Local Marine Board shall take place immediately.

IV. If any Master or Mate is convicted of Felony, or is convicted and sentenced to Imprisonment either summarily or otherwise under any of the Provisions of the Act of the Eighth Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, chapter one hundred and twelve, or of the Mercantile Marine Act, 1850, the Board of Trade may cancel or suspend his Certificate, whether of Competency or Service; and if upon any Investigation held under the twenty eighth section of the said Mercantile Marine Act, the Report of the Board or Persons making the same is to the Effect that such Master or Mate has been guilty of any gross and repeated Acts of Dishonesty, or of Drunkenness, or of Tyranny, the Board of Trade may cancel or suspend his Certificate, whether of Competency or Service, and any such Cancellation or Suspension shall have the same Effect as any Cancellation or Suspension made under the said twenty eighth section of the Mercantile Marine Act, 1850; provided that the Powers hereby given shall not effect or diminish the Powers given by the said twenty eighth section of the Mercantile Marine Act, 1850.

V. In any Case in which Masters or Mates of Merchant Ships are required to possess or produce Certificates of Competency or Service, such Certificates may be either of a Grade appropriate to the Stations held by them for the Time being, or of any superior Grade.

VI. After the First Day of September one thousand eight hundred and fifty one, the Master of every Foreign-going Ship shall, on signing the Agreement with his Crew as required by the Mercantile Marine Act, 1850, produce to the Shipping Master before whom the same is signed, the Certificate of Competency or Service which the said Master and his First and Second Mate or only Mate, as the Case may be, are by the said Act required to possess; and upon such Production being duly made, and the Agreement being duly executed, as by the said Act is required, the Shipping Master shall sign and give to the Master a Certificate to that Effect; and in the Case of running Agreements hereinafter provided for, the Shipping Master shall before the Second and every subsequent Voyage made after the First Commencement of the Agreement, sign and give to the Master, on his complying with the Provisions hereinafter contained with respect to such Agreement, and producing to the Shipping Master the Certificate of Competency or Service of any First, Second, or only Mate then first engaged by him, a Certificate to that Effect; and the Master of every Foreign-going Ship shall before proceeding to Sea produce the Certificate so to be given to him by the Shipping Master as aforesaid to the Collector or Comptroller of Customs, and the Collector or Comptroller may thereupon, notwithstanding any Provision to the contrary in the said Mercantile Marine Act, 1850, contained, allow such Ship to proceed to Sea without requiring the Production of the Certificates of Competency or Service, or the Agreement with the Crew; and no Officer of Customs shall clear any Foreign-going Ship Outwards or permit her to proceed to Sea without the Production of such Certificate from the Shipping Master as aforesaid.

VII. Such Provisions of the Mercantile Marine Act, 1850, as relate to the Engagement and Discharge of Seamen in the Presence of a Shipping Master, shall extend to all Engagements and Discharges of Seamen made within the Limits of the United Kingdom in and from Foreign-going British Ships, in whatever Part of Her Majesty's Dominions such Ships may be registered or licensed, and in whatever Trade or Occupation (other than the Trade or Occupation of Home Trade Ships) they may be employed, and whether the same have or have not previously been within the Limits of the United Kingdom; and such Provisions of the said Act of the Eighth Year of Her Majesty Queen Victoria as relate to the Transmission or Delivery of the Account or List referred to in the said Act as Schedule C. shall apply to all Ships as aforesaid when discharging their Crews in the United Kingdom; provided