



The Royal Gazette.

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FREDERICTON, N.B., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1853.

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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.



By His Excellency Sir EDMUND WALKER HEAD,
Baronet, Lieutenant Governor and Commander
in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick,
&c. &c. &c.

EDMUND HEAD.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the General Assembly of this Province stands prorogued to the eleventh day of October next, I have thought fit further to prorogue the said General Assembly, and the same is hereby further prorogued to the second Tuesday in the month of December next ensuing.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Fredericton, the twenty second day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty three, and in the seventeenth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's Command.

J. R. PARTELOW.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENT.

ROBERT CHARLTON to be Commissioner under the Labour Act, 12 Vic. Cap. 4, for the Parish of Saint Martins, Saint John.

By His Excellency's Command.

J. R. PARTELOW.

Secretary's Office, 3rd November, 1853.

(Circular)

Downing Street, 10th October, 1853.

SIR,—I transmit to you the copy of a Letter, and its enclosures, received from the Board of Trade, by which you will perceive that the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, resolved to discontinue, forthwith, the practice of Registration by Tickets of British Merchant Seamen, as required by the 53rd and 56th Sections of the Act 7 & 8 Vic., cap. 112. You will observe, however, that their Lordships are anxious that the records of the Merchant Seamen of the Country should continue to be kept accurately, notwithstanding the discontinuance of this practice; and in pursuance of their wishes on the subject, I have to instruct you to call the attention of the Officers of Customs in the Colony under your Government, to the provisions contained in the 75th Section of the Act 13 & 14 Vict., cap. 93.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

NEWCASTLE.

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

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
23rd September, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to inclose, for the information of the Duke of Newcastle, copy of correspondence between this Board and the Admiralty on the subject of the system of Register Tickets for British Seamen, established by the Act 7 & 8 Vic., cap. 112, from which it will be seen that my Lords have, with the concurrence of the Admiralty, determined to exercise the powers given to them by the Act 13 & 14 Vict., cap. 93, sect. 32, and to dispense with the observance of so much of the Act 7 & 8 Vic., cap. 112, as relates to the Register Tickets in question from the 1st October next.

I am, therefore, to request you to move the Duke of Newcastle to give such instructions as may be necessary, in order to inform the Officers of Customs in the Colonies of this determination, so

that they may not after the date above mentioned, or the time at which the instructions on the subject may reach them, require the production of the Register Tickets of Seamen under the 53rd and 56th Sections of the Act 7 & 8 Vic., cap. 112, or to take any other steps founded on the continuance of the system.

As it is important that the records of the Merchant Seamen of the Country should be kept accurately, notwithstanding the discontinuance of Registration by Tickets, I am to request that the attention of the Colonial Officers of Customs may be called to the 75th Section of the Act 13 & 14 Vict., cap. 93, by which it is provided that if any Seaman on or before being engaged, makes a false statement of the name of his last ship or last alleged ship, or of his name, he shall forfeit out of his wages, a sum not exceeding Five Pounds, and that the Officers in question may be instructed, when superintending engagements of Seamen, to call the attention of any man whom they have reason to suspect of making such false statement, to the penalty he incurs by so doing.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

T. H. FARRER, Asst. Secretary.

H. Merivale, Esq. &c. &c. Colonial Office.

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade,
12th September, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, to request you to call the attention of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the system of Registering Seamen by means of Tickets, under the Act 7 & 8 Vic., cap. 112, and to the subsequent Act, 13 & 14 Vict., cap. 93, sect. 32; by which power is given to the Board of Trade, with the concurrence of the Admiralty, to abolish this system.

This power my Lords are now desirous to exercise, if the Admiralty are prepared to give their concurrence.

Among the various objects which were contemplated when the system was established, one of the most important was, no doubt, to assist in procuring Men for the Royal Navy, by affording means of identifying and tracing the Seamen engaged in the Merchant Service. Other objects which it has also been intended to answer, are to be found in the facilities it gives for tracing Seamen's services, in order to prove their claims on the Merchant Seamen's Fund, for keeping a Record of character and conduct, and for checking desertion.

It is obvious that every one of these objects must fail, unless the system can be thoroughly and stringently carried into effect, and that if Seamen can under any pretence serve without Register Tickets, or if they have lost them, can procure other Tickets without being identified and traced, the system is, in the proportion in which such practices prevail, rendered valueless. There is good reason to believe that such practices have hitherto prevailed to a very considerable extent, and it is also clear in my Lords' opinion, that no measures of stringency which could be adopted, would effectually check them, even were the law as to the Manning of Merchant Ships to remain in its present condition. But the change in this law effected by the recent Act, 16 and 17 Vic., cap. 131, sect. 31, under which a British Ship Owner may, from the 1st October next, employ any number of Foreigners, materially increases the difficulty of carrying into effect the Law concerning Register Tickets. As every Master of a British Ship has hitherto been required to employ none but British Seamen in the Coasting Trade, and to have a proportion of three-fourths of his Crew British Seamen in the Foreign Trade; and as he could not engage any British Seaman without first procuring from him his Register Ticket, it follows that British Seamen could rarely obtain employment in British Ships without producing their Tickets. But, as the Law will stand from the 1st October, a Seaman who has lost, or does not choose to produce his Ticket, will merely have to state that he is a Foreigner, and the Master no longer limited to British Subjects, will be at liberty to accept him without requiring it, and will generally have no motive to require it. There is reason to believe that at present the penalties to which British Seamen are subjected for the non-production of the Register Ticket not