


Royal Gazette.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23.

(COPY.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

DOWNING STREET,
2nd January, 1868.

No 1.

Sir ;

I have the honor to inform you that an application has been received from the United States Minister, at this Court, on the subject of the appointment of Mr. Thomas F. Wilson as Vice Consul General for the United States, in British North America, to reside at Montreal, as there appears to be no objection to this appointment, I have requested the Governor General of Canada to recognize Mr. Wilson in the above capacity.

I have &c. &c. &c.,

(Signed,) BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS.

Lieut. Governor Dundas, &c. &c. &c.

(COPY.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

DOWNING STREET,
26th December, 1867.

No. 35.

Sir ;

I have the honor to inform you that Her Majesty will not be advised to exercise her power of disallowance with respect to the following Act of the Legislature of Prince Edward Island, a transcript of which accompanied your Despatch, No. 84, of the 22nd of October last, viz. cap. 13, passed 17th of May, 1867, intituled "An Act to repeal two certain acts compelling masters of vessels to exhibit a light while in Harbor, at night time, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof."

I have &c. &c. &c.

(Signed,) BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS.

Lieut. Governor Dundas, &c. &c. &c.

CIRCULAR.—(COPY.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

DOWNING STREET,
21st December, 1867.

Sir ;

I transmit to you herewith an Extract of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Baltimore, reporting that the Shipping Masters at that Port refuse to ship a White Crew on board any vessel in which a Colored Seaman is serving, together with a copy of the Answer which has been returned to that Despatch.

It will be desirable that you should take such steps as may be necessary for giving publicity to the state of things disclosed in this correspondence, and for warning Ship Owners in the Colony under your Government of the course pursued by the Baltimore Shipping Masters.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed,) BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS.

Lieut. Governor Dundas, &c. &c. &c.

Extracts of a Letter from Mr. Consul Rainals to Lord Stanley, dated British Consulate, Baltimore, 11th November 1867, No. 25.

"HITHERTO white and colored seamen have been shipped indiscriminately on board the same vessel,

whereas now the shipping masters and the boarding house keepers have at a period when trade is extremely dull and seamen consequently plentiful, determined not to ship a white man on board the same vessel with a colored man, and their combined power in the matter cannot be counteracted by any means at my command, as through their medium alone can seamen be obtained.

In order to illustrate the practical result of such combination, I have the honor to submit for your Lordship's consideration a case of recent date.

The British ship "R. B. Mulhall" arrived here a short time ago with a mixed crew of white and colored seamen shipped at Liverpool, Nova Scotia, for a term of twelve months. Soon after her arrival, several of the men deserted (as is invariably the case here), but one colored man and two white men remained by her. When she was nearly ready for sea the Captain told me that the shipping masters positively refused to ship a white crew on board the vessel so long as the colored man remained there.

This colored man the captain informed me was an excellent seaman whose services he was as anxious to retain as the man was desirous to remain by the vessel until the expiration of his term of service,

* * * * *

My instructions give me no authority to compel a seaman to leave a ship without just cause, and yet I felt that, the case being without a precedent as far as I am concerned, I should not be justified in delaying the departure of the vessel for an indefinite period. I therefore determined if necessary to take some responsibility on myself by discharging the colored seaman and sending him home at the ship's expense.

Fortunately, however, I was latter able to persuade him to take his discharge on payment of additional wages. And the matter was so settled.

* * * * *

Under these circumstances I would solicit your Lordship's instructions as to the means I may be permitted to adopt if cases of a similar nature present themselves again, but when the colored seaman insist on remaining on board the vessel until their time of service shall have expired."

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Consul Rainals.

Foreign Office, 30th November, 1867.

I AM directed by Lord Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 25, of the 11th instant, reporting a difficulty which had arisen in consequence of the refusal of the shipping masters at Baltimore, to ship a white crew on board the British vessel "R. B. Mulhall," as long as a colored seaman remained on board that vessel.

As it appears from your despatch that the negro in question subsequently accepted his discharge, it is unnecessary for Lord Stanley to make any observation on this particular case, but in reply to your request for instructions as to the course you should adopt in any similar case in future, I am to state to you, that this is not a matter in which Her Majesty's Government can interfere. Your powers as Consul are clearly defined by the "Merchant Shipping Act," and you can only remove a seaman from a British ship as ordered by that Act.

Colored seamen being British subjects are in all respects to be treated as other seamen.

It must therefore be left to the masters and owners of ships to adopt such measures as they may think best calculated to obviate the difficulties caused by the course pursued by the Baltimore shipping masters, and in order that British and Colonial shipowners may be warned of the necessity of taking such measures, Lord Stanley has caused a copy of your despatch to be communicated to the Colonial Office and to the Board of Trade.

I am, &c.

(Signed,)

E. HAMMOND.

H. T. A. Rainals, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul, Baltimore.