

No. 87.

New Zealand, No. 196.

MY LORD,—

Downing Street, 30th October, 1909.

With reference to my despatches No. 19, of the 25th January last, and No. 189, of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of your Ministers, copy of a letter from the Board of Trade relative to the proposed recognition in the United Kingdom of load-lines for foreign ships assigned by Bureau Veritas and Germanischer Lloyd under the authority of the French and German Governments respectively.

I have, &c.,
CREWE.

Governor, the Right Hon. Lord Plunket, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., &c.

Enclosure.

M. 22048.

Board of Trade, Marine Department, 7 Whitehall Gardens, S.W.,
22nd October, 1909.

SIR,—

With reference to previous correspondence respecting the recognition of the load-lines of foreign ships in the ports of the United Kingdom in connection with section 1 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state, for the information of the Earl of Crewe, that the Belgian Government recently approached this Department asking that load-lines assigned to Belgian vessels under the rules and tables of freeboard adopted by the German and French Governments should be recognised in this country, on the ground that the Belgian Government did not intend to adopt any rules or regulations on this subject, and that the German and French rules had been recognised by this Department as equally effective with the British rules.

Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, and especially to the importance of securing in the fullest sense, at as early a date as possible, an international load-line for ships, the Board have decided to recognise in the ports of the United Kingdom the load-lines of foreign ships assigned by Bureau Veritas and Germanischer Lloyd, under the authority of the French and German Governments respectively, in accordance with the French and German regulations, provided the ships do not belong to a country which has adopted freeboard regulations recognised by this Department as equally effective with the British regulations. In such a case the recognition of the load-lines of the ships of that country will be limited to those assigned under national rules by the competent authorised authority or authorities.

I am to add that, although other countries are preparing to adopt similar regulations to those in operation in this country, the only regulations which have, up to the present, been accepted as equally effective with the British regulations are those of France and Germany.

I have, &c.,

R. C. HERON MAXWELL.

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

No. 88.

New Zealand, No. 197.

MY LORD,—

Downing Street, 3rd November, 1909.

With reference to your despatch No. 73, of the 1st September, I have the honour to request that you will inform your Ministers that the King's exequatur empowering Mr. H. B. Sorensen to act as Danish Consul at Christchurch has received His Majesty's signature.

I have, &c.,

CREWE.

The Officer administering the Government of New Zealand.

No. 89.

New Zealand, No. 198.

MY LORD,—

Downing Street, 4th November, 1909.

I have the honour to transmit to you, to be laid before your Ministers, copy of a note from the Belgian Legation relative to the International Congress