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WHEAT (CANADA).

— No. 1. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable Sir *Charles Bagot*, G.C.B., to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Kingston, 27th January 1843, No. 20.

No. 1.  
Extract of a Despatch from the Right hon. Sir Charles Bagot to Lord Stanley, 27 January 1843.

THE BILL for imposing a duty on Foreign Wheat will form the subject of a separate Despatch.

(No. 19.)

— No. 2. —

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Extracts of a Despatch from the Right hon. Sir Charles Bagot to Lord Stanley, 27 January 1843.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit a Petition addressed to Her Majesty by the Board of Trade at Quebec, praying that the Royal Assent may be withheld from the Bill passed in the last session of the Canadian Legislature, by which a duty was imposed on the importation of foreign wheat into Canada, until the Imperial Parliament shall have passed a law authorizing the free admission into the United Kingdom of all grain and flour exported from this province.

As the preamble of this Bill asserts, and the proceedings in both Houses attest, this measure was passed under the expectation, that if the Canadian Legislature consented to lay a tax upon American produce, the British Government would be willing to recommend to the Imperial Legislature to remove all duty upon grain and flour received from Canadian ports.

To this anticipation they were led by the statements made by Ministers in the House of Commons during the discussions upon the Corn Laws and the Colonial Customs Duties Bill, and by your Lordship's despatches upon this subject, particularly that of the 2d March 1842, No. 83.

It is a boon for which the producers and merchants of this province have long sought, and they hoped that when a change was made in the duty in England on foreign produce, they might, as far as Canadian produce was concerned, look to such an amount of favour as would keep undisturbed their relation to the foreign producer.

When they found that the chief obstacle to such an arrangement was the free admission of American produce into the province, they did not delay passing the measure which had been suggested and was deemed necessary to obtain it.

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The attention which your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government have so lately given to this subject, renders it almost unnecessary for me to offer any observations or arguments upon it; I will, therefore, rather endeavour to supply such information with regard to prices and cost of transport as will enable you to judge whether any injury can arise to British interests from the desired concession.

Herewith I transmit a copy of a Report of a Special Committee of the House of Assembly of last session, upon a free trade with Great Britain in agricultural products.

The rate of duty which the Canadian Legislature has fixed upon American wheat is that which was originally proposed by the Vice-President of the Board of Trade on the introduction of the Colonial Customs Bill. It is not excessive, nor likely to be burthensome on the Canadian consumer, while it exceeds the average of the duty now payable by Canadian wheat in England.

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For Lord Stanley's Despatch, 2 March 1842, No. 83, vide Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 13 Feb. 1843, No. 18, p. 3.