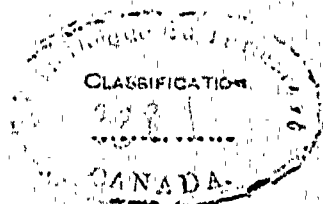


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TIMBER DUTIES.



COPY of a MEMORIAL to the BOARD OF TRADE by
the MERCHANTS of *Quebec*, respecting the TIMBER
TRADE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 14 March 1831.

THE MEMORIAL of the undersigned Proprietors of Lumber Establishments
and Saw Mills, in the Neighbourhood of *Quebec*.

Humbly Showeth,

THAT your Memorialists have heard with the greatest anxiety and consternation
that it has been proposed in the Imperial Parliament to make an Alteration in
the Duties on Timber and Deals, prejudicial to the North American Colonies :

That your Memorialists, and a vast number of the inhabitants of the Canadas,
have made large outlays of capital in saw-mills, and the various establishments
indispensably requisite for carrying on the Trade, on the faith of existing laws :

That the winter-establishments for preparing the new supplies of Lumber for
shipment next season have now been established throughout the country for more
than three months, and stocked at a heavy expense :

That many of your Memorialists provided in the autumn at *Quebec* large
stocks of Lumber for the loading of their early spring ships, an essential and usual
precaution to ensure the accomplishment of two voyages during the season :

That these undertakings have been entered into unsuspecting of any change,
and that the capital so invested amounts at the present moment to at least
£1,250,000 :

That any immediate alteration in the Duties unfavourable to the North American
Trade would render these investments a total sacrifice :

That such loss of capital, and sudden withdrawal of employment from so many
persons, would be a dreadful visitation to this young Colony, and spread over-
whelming ruin and misery far and wide throughout the country :

That the Trade having risen up under the protective system adopted in the
first instance by the British Government from motives of policy, for the purpose of
opening channels for the supply of Timber independent of foreign countries, ought
not, your Memorialists respectfully represent, in justice to be abandoned without
ample notice, that those who have been encouraged thereby to embark their
capital in the trade may have time to withdraw a portion of it; such, your
Memorialists believe, has always been the just system of His Majesty's paternal
government, as in the cases of the bounty to the Linen Trade and on Barilla: any
other system would be but calling forth the energies of His Majesty's subjects to
involve them in ruin :

That a continuation of the present protection to the trade would be requisite
for a term of at least five years, to withdraw a portion of the capital embarked in
it, and three years to realize the stocks of Lumber on hand, and now preparing :