

own; the object is only to remove the unnecessary restrictions with which the present system is incumbered, the effect of which will make the neglect and inattention of which we now complain operate in our favor. The change proposed is to enable the Provincial Legislature to originate and pass a bill to make such alterations as may be necessary, send it through the same channel as at present, and after having laid on the table of the House of Lords and Commons thirty days, if not objected to, similar to the provisions of the 12d clause of Geo. III. and the present Union Act, it becomes a law. This proposition received the unanimous concurrence of the late House of Assembly of Upper Canada in 1835, it formed a prominent resolution in the instructions on the subject of the Union in 1839, as well as in the address of 1840, as shown by the following reference. [Here they were read.] And I hope it will not be lost sight of by the present Legislature, if not acted upon before another session. Since the address of 1840 events have arisen in the mother country to which we should not be inattentive. Public opinion appears to be nearly divided between the advocates of free trade and the colonial system. Our products are subject to the prevalence of either of those theories as they may chance to preponderate in the councils of the nation. From the published report of a committee of the House of Commons, appointed to enquire into the customs duties, it appears that a removal of all differential duties in our favor is recommended, and as an equivalent, free trade with all the world is proposed. Feeling a change in our present colonial policy to be inevitable, and that those differential duties could be removed with mutual benefit to the mother country and colony, I proposed the following resolutions for the consideration of the select committee:

1. Resolved, That this house views with alarm the charges to which the products of this Province are subject when admitted into the ports of Great Britain; and they believe that the general interest of her Majesty's subjects, both in the mother country, and this colony, would be best promoted by the introduction of some certain or fixed policy.

2. That all duties be removed on every article the growth and manufacture of Great Britain when admitted into the ports of Canada, on and after the year 1845, and that an application be made for the removal of all duties on every article the growth and produce of Canada when admitted into the ports of Great Britain.

3. That the deficiency arising from the remission of duties on articles from the mother country be supplied by imposing an immediate duty on articles imported from the United States and other foreign countries.

1. That in case her Majesty's Government consider it the interest of our fellow subjects in Britain to place us upon the same footing as foreigners—we have no alternative—our products excluded from the markets of the mother country and the ports of the United States, our efforts must be directed to the protection and encouragement of manufacturing establishments, to create a home market for the consumption of the products of the soil.

Although the committee approved both of the principle and the effect which would be produced, a majority decided against them. Some thought it too bold a measure, it might affect the revenue; that the home government would never sanction it, from those conflicting opinions, and particularly from the subject not being well understood. It is not my intention to press a discussion of the house the present session; but as I may bring them forward the ensuing, I will briefly state the grounds on which they should be sustained. First, the uncertainty which prevails respecting the future policy of the mother country; and the effects produced, re-

quire no argument. Public attention should be directed to that policy which would be most beneficial to both the mother country and colony. The second resolution advocates the removal of all duties. This is in the first place just; it is due to our fellow subjects in Britain. We have no right to ask a boon unless prepared to grant a similar one. It would place the inhabitants of Canada in a different position. Their application would be made on different grounds. Those differential duties are unsound in principle and uncertain in their operation. They create dissatisfaction among our fellow subjects in Britain as well as here. Although we are not wholly excluded from the markets of the mother country as foreigners, we are not admitted as subjects; we are made to feel our inferiority as colonists. Their removal in both countries would in effect establish a coasting trade between London in Britain and the shores of Lake Superior in Canada. It would be adopting the principles of free trade, in their fullest extent, between subjects of the same Empire, possessing the same common interest. It would make us British subjects in fact in place of name.—Secondly, it offers the most perfect security to the British nation at large. The voluntary surrender of all duty hereafter by the Provincial Legislature ensures to the British manufacturer the most extensive and the most certain demand for his fabrics on the globe. From the official returns made to the Board of Trade in 1836, it appears the value of British manufactures to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada was nearly double the value of exports to Russia, with a population of sixty millions, and exceeded by half a million the value of exports to France, Spain, Prussia, Sweden and Denmark, with upwards of sixty millions of people, averaging less than 8d. per head, whereas the people of British North America consume at the rate of 31s. 6d. per head. The British shipping or tonnage employed with France, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and United States, was 314,879, that of British North America 620,772. If this gives a true statement of the magnitude of the trade of this colony with a population of from two to three millions, what may be anticipated when a country already inhabited by millions becomes opened to the markets of the mother country, and which have only been checked by the most impolitic restrictions. To the agricultural interest—from the high price of labor which must continue in this new country for years to come, from the limited supply which can be furnished from our present population, the increase of which can scarcely keep pace with the increased demand for the mother country; from the high prices of freight, which, from the distance at which our agricultural country is situated in the interior, must always maintain. These natural causes afford the most certain protection to this important interest, to the shipping and maritime interest, for employment of vessels, and nursery of seamen on this extensive coast. Admitting all these advantages to arise to the general interest of the mother country, in what manner is the diminution of revenue to be supplied? This is a serious difficulty, because it is almost impossible to make any Minister understand our true position. In place of diminishing the revenue of the mother country it would greatly increase it.—For instance, the amount at present collected on timber is about £300,000, on grain and all other produce £100,000—not exceeding 4 to £500,000 at most. The home government have expressed their determination to maintain this colony at all hazards, they propose to expend £100,000 per year in erecting fortifications, in addition to the large annual expenditure for the maintenance of the Army and Navy, which may safely be computed at near one million of pounds. This expenditure creates an artifi-

cial state of trade between the two countries for the time being, the Canada merchant imports goods to that amount, and makes his payments in bills of exchange on the Treasury through the Commissariat (the money might as well be paid over to the manufacturer at once by the Treasurer, as far as revenue is concerned, as to make this circuitous route and pass through so many more hands.) By admitting the products of Canada into the ports of Britain free of duty and restrictions, the Army and Navy may safely be reduced to the peace establishment since the war of 1815; the country maintained by a far more powerful tie than troops and fortifications—the interests and affections of an entire people, and half a million saved to the revenue of the mother country. There are too many among us interested in continuing the deception practiced on the home government respecting the inhabitants of Canada, who have repeatedly proved their loyalty under the most discouraging circumstances. Let us establish prosperity by a liberal policy, and the people will see and feel the full value of the connection with the mother country, which will be visible to every man from the comparison he will make with the people adjoining us, and no one will doubt the certainty of maintaining the connection. Those who apprehend a diminution of our provincial revenue will find that in 1840 it exceeded £300,000. Returns of that year show:

1,722,410 lbs refined sugar,	1d.	£7,176 14s 2d
733,739 tea,	4d.	12,228 13 8
301,056 minots sa	4d.	6,002 5 0
Merchandise, 2½ per cent.		45,761 12 6

£71,169 5s 4d

The entire loss of this revenue would not be felt if economy formed a part of our system. To prove that this deficiency can be made up from foreign commerce, the following data is submitted. By the returns from the Welland Canal Company of produce passed that Canal in 1840, they show:

1,533,765 bushels of wheat,	
33,195 " corn,	
209,01½ barrels flour,	
16,621½ " pork and beef,	
1,515½ " whisky,	
3,399 kegs of butter, &c.	

It appears from the evidence before the committee of the House of Commons in 1836, that 5 bushels of wheat is consumed by each person: nearly double that amount would be required in America. Assuming the population in Canada to be 1,200,000, Army and Navy 40,000, seamen and transient persons 10,000, making 1,250,000: at 5 bushels to each person we would require 6,250,000 bushels. Taking the quantity from the American shores passing the Canal, alone, we have nearly two and a half millions; and assuming that the greater part of our products will be shipped to Great Britain, we may safely anticipate that quantity in future. The revenue thus derived from articles admitted from the United States, or foreign parts which compete with the like articles grown in Canada may be computed as follows: say,

500,000 bls flour (including corn, rye, and all grains) at 2s 6d.	£62,500 0 0
20,000 bls pork, at 10d.	10,000 0 0
500,000 lbs butter and cheese, 1d.	2,043 6 6

On articles of merchandize which do not compete with the grower or products in Canada, such as tea at 3d per lb., dry goods, hardware, glass, crockery, shoes, boots, leather, hats, drugs, medicine and all other articles as high a duty as even will be found to bear, without inducement to smuggle, from 10 to 20 per cent. on which we may assume, 25,456 13 6
On spirits, 9,556 15 6
On other articles, 15,899 18 0
This increase of duty will increase the va-