

following alteration, viz. :—That in consequence of the repeal of the Provisions of the Act of Re-Union, imposing restrictions on the use of the French Language in Canadian Parliamentary proceedings, which it affords the Committee the greatest gratification to find has taken place in compliance with the Address of both Houses of the Provincial Parliament,—the seventy-seventh Standing Order be rescinded as superfluous; and that the same, as well as the Section of the Imperial Statute containing those provisions, which are now included in the Appendix to the printed collection of the Standing Orders, be omitted in any future edition of such collection.

Ordered, that the report be received, and

Read. The same was then read by the Clerk.

Adopted. *Ordered*, that the said Report be adopted.

A Message was brought from the Legislative Assembly as follows :—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
January 29, 1849.

Resolved, That a Message be sent to the Legislative Council, informing their Honors that this House has adopted an Address to Her Majesty on the subject of the Navigation Laws, and to request the concurrence of their Honors thereto.

Ordered, that the Honorable Mr. *Hincks* do carry the said Message to the Legislative Council.

Attest,

WM. B. LINDSAY,
Clk. Assy.

And then they withdrew.

The Address to the Queen was then read by the Clerk as follows :—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of *Canada*, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly approach your Majesty for

the purpose of assuring Your Majesty of the devoted loyalty of the people of this Province, and of their sincere attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government; and we beg to represent to Your Majesty that we feel it to be a duty incumbent upon us to take the earliest opportunity to assure Your Majesty that the sentiments of the people of this Province on the subject of the repeal of the British Navigation Laws, which were expressed to Your Majesty in a joint Address from the two Houses of the Provincial Parliament in the month of July, 1847, remain unchanged; that delay in removing the present restrictions on the employment of Foreign Shipping would, in our opinion, be highly injurious to the Carrying Trade of the *St. Lawrence*; that in order to secure this Trade, the Province, relying in the continuance of the protection which was then enjoyed by Colonial products in the Markets of *Great Britain*, incurred a large debt for the construction of a line of Ship Canals, by means of which the cost of Inland Transport has been very materially reduced; that owing to the difficulties attending the navigation of the *St. Lawrence*, the greater length of the voyage, and the higher rates of insurance, freights are likely at all times to range higher at *Quebec* than at *New York*, but the practical effect of the Navigation Laws is not only to prevent the possibility of a fair competition between the two routes, but actually to give direct encouragement to American shipping, not only through the Canals of the State of *New York*, but at the Seaports of the *United States*; that at the Seaports of the *United States*, Shipping can generally be procured to carry any quantity of produce that may be offered, without a material increase of freight, but that even in case of scarcity, as the navigation is open throughout the year, Foreign Shipping can readily be procured in *Europe* at fair remunerative rates of freight, and without serious inconvenience or loss of time; that at *Quebec*, on the other hand, the exporter is compelled to rely on the regular traders to the port, so that when an unusual accumulation of produce takes place, vessels cannot be procured, and freights immediately rise to most exorbitant rates; that no means exist of engaging British Shipping to meet the sudden demands which the nature of the trade causes, as such Shipping is seldom to be met with at American ports, unless under specific orders, or the engagements of a Charter; that the early closing

Message from the Assembly with an Address to Her Majesty on the Navigation Laws.

The Address.