

No. 51.

The SHEFFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures, Sheffield,

SIR,

August 12, 1887.

I UNDERSTAND that the Colonial Office has been good enough to undertake to forward to the Canadian Government memorials against the proposed increase of the Canadian tariff duties.

I therefore take the liberty of enclosing a memorial from the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures, which I trust you will forward in due course to the Government of Canada.

The Right Hon. Sir Henry Holland,
Colonial Office,
London, S.W.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT HUGHES,
Secretary.

Enclosure in No. 51.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

The RESPECTFUL MEMORIAL of the SHEFFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND
MANUFACTURES.

SHEWETH AS FOLLOWS:

1. Your Memorialists are a Chamber of Commerce representing a district largely engaged in the manufacture of steel and iron, and of the various commodities made therefrom, usually known as hardware goods.

2. Your Memorialists have noticed with great regret that your honourable Government is proposing to impose largely increased duties upon iron and steel.

3. The amount of the proposed increase in the duties is such as to render them, in the opinion of your Memorialists, protective and prohibitory.

4. Your Memorialists feel sure that immediate and grave injury to the trade hitherto carried on between this country and Canada to the mutual advantage of both, will be the result of the imposition of the duties which have been proposed.

5. Your Memorialists feel sure that the proposal to impose such prohibitory duties upon iron and steel must inevitably be highly injurious to the trade, both of Canada and this country, since, in the case of Canada, artificial prices would be created for necessary commodities, to the detriment of the consumers of those commodities within the Dominion, whilst, in the case of England, a large market will be practically destroyed, and thus the existing depression in the hardware trade must inevitably be intensified.

6. Your Memorialists regard such a course of action as is proposed by your honourable Government as being highly detrimental to the best interests of Great Britain and her Colonies, since it places an important Colony like the Dominion of Canada in an actual position of hostility to the trade of the Mother Country.

7. Considerable feeling has been created in this district by the proposed action in this matter of your honourable Government against a Colony which can bring itself to strike so heavy a blow against the mutual commerce of Great Britain and that Colony.

8. Your Memorialists trust that there may yet be time to withdraw a proposal which cannot, they feel sure, be justified as being necessary in the interests of the revenue of the Canadian Government; but which your Memorialists regard as wholly protective, and as prohibitory to the trades affected thereby.

Your Memorialists therefore trust that this matter will be reconsidered, and that an equitable rate of duty may be imposed, sufficient only for the legitimate purposes of the revenue of the Dominion of Canada.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c.

Signed on behalf of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce
and Manufactures, this 12th day of August 1887.

HERBERT HUGHES,
Secretary.