

Petition of the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade.

“ TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE LORDS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL,
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

“ The Petition of the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade
“ HUMBLY SHEWETH,

“ That your Petitioners have learnt with deep regret, that it is the intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to propose to Parliament, during its present Session, the reduction of one-half of the existing duties on foreign wood.

“ That when the act of 1846, gradually reducing the wood duties, was passed, your petitioners were led to believe that those duties would not again be disturbed by the Imperial legislature, as that act was based upon free-trade principles, placing foreign and colonial wood in the British market upon equal terms, taking into consideration the difference in freight.

“ The average rates of freight from the Baltic may be estimated at from 14s. to 18s. per load, whilst those from the Colonies are from 30s. to 33s. Thus the proposed reduction of 7s. per load on Timber and 10s. on Deals, would operate as a direct bonus to the foreigner, and the effect would be to diminish considerably the export of Red Pine Timber, and Spruce and Pine Deals from British America, and in similar proportions to increase the import into England of those articles from Norway and the Baltic, thereby causing most serious injury to the trade of the North American Colonies.

“ Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray, that your Lordships, taking the premises into consideration, will not concur in any Act reducing the duties now payable on Foreign Timber or Deals.

“ For the Quebec Board of Trade,

(Signed)

“ JAMES DEAN, President.

“ Quebec, 24th April, 1851,

“ JAMES GILLESPIE, Secretary.”