

in 1815 and the resumption of specie payments in England in 1819 necessarily caused re-adjustments in all branches of trade. There were, however, Conditions of Trade in Canada. conditions peculiar to Canada which affected trade, arising out of the separation of Upper from Lower Canada. The revenue was raised chiefly from customs duties which were imposed, partly by imperial and partly by provincial statutes, and were collected by officers of the imperial customs. The present generation can hardly imagine the friction incessantly arising in consequence of the well intentioned but sometimes injudicious measures of the home authorities. Upper Canada had no port and the revenue was apportioned between the two provinces under conventions carried out by a board of commissioners. In 1839 the proportion was fixed at two-fifths for Upper Canada and three-fifths for Lower Canada. This was a fruitful source of trouble, for Upper Canada was in debt and urged the increase of duties while the revenue of Lower Canada was overflowing. Then the collectors of customs acted under orders from London and were independent of any local authority. At the time the Committee of Trade was organized, political feeling ran very high. The merchants favoured a union of the provinces which seemed to them the only means of putting an end to most of the existing evils; but that was vehemently opposed by the majority of the people of Lower Canada. The alarming crisis referred to was probably the dead-lock in the legislature which resulted in a stoppage of the supplies by the lower chamber and much unreasonable agitation very detrimental to trade. Incessant appeals were being made to the home government by both