

the various markets in Great Britain, and the descriptions of timber used in ship and house building, mines and manufactories; and it can hardly be supposed that Mr. McGregor possesses this knowledge, as it can only be acquired by trading in the article for a number of years. Now, it is a fact, that when the present duty of ten shillings per load was imposed on colonial timber the price of Baltic timber at the shipping port, rose 75 per cent, of that amount, and whenever the subject of an alteration of the duty has been under consideration, the very discussion of the subject has caused a rise in the price of Baltic timber at the shipping port. If Mr. McGregor's scale of duties be adopted, the import of Colonial timber must cease, and the price of Baltic timber will rise at the shipping port in the same ratio as the differential duty may be reduced; and ship builders and others will be obliged to pay as high, if not a higher price for timber than they do at present, which extra price will go into the pockets of a few influential individuals in England, who are interested in the timber trade of the north of Europe.

927—Mr. McGregor says he has resided in all the North American Colonies, and is of opinion that if the restrictions on our import trade were withdrawn, any protective duty on Colonial timber would be unnecessary.

Mr. McGregor's residence in Canada must have been very short, as he is not remembered in Montreal or Quebec; and his evidence on the timber trade contains the most unfounded and incorrect statements, calculated to mislead those who are called on to legislate upon it, and proves that he is as ignorant of the subject on which he is speaking, as a person might be supposed to be who had never set his foot in Canada. With some very trifling exceptions, Mr. McGregor cannot point out one instance where the Colonists have solicited the removal of these restrictions, or where they have complained of their imposition; indeed, so light are they, that until Mr. McGregor mentioned them in his evidence, many of the Colonists were in ignorance of their existence; and to say that we would give up our timber trade in return for the removal of these paltry restrictions, is a gross misrepresentation.