

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 of the navigation of the *St. Lawrence* renders it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain shipping from *England* to supply the sudden demands which, from the nature of the trade, are constantly arising, and which could readily be supplied at the American Seaports, whence vessels would at any time come round to the *St. Lawrence* if assured of remunerative freights; that the uncertainty which at all times prevails as to the route by which the products of the West will be transported to the Sea Board, must operate to prevent British Vessels coming to the *St. Lawrence* in sufficient numbers to ensure moderate freights during the shipping season, while the scarcity of shipping and the immediate rise of freights to *England*, whenever a large supply of products is sent by the *St. Lawrence*, has the effect of diverting those products through the *Erie Canal* to *New York*.

We beg further to represent to Your Majesty, that the Navigation Laws have likewise had a most injurious influence on the import trade of the Province; that it has not unfrequently happened that Canadian importers of sugars being unable to procure British Vessels on any terms at *Havana* and other foreign ports, have been compelled to import their cargoes in American bottoms to *New York*, and thence through the American Canals to *Canada*, when, but for the restrictions imposed by the Navigation Laws, they would have imported them by the *St. Lawrence* in foreign bottoms which could have been readily procured.

We have observed with much satisfaction, that a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons during the last Session of the Imperial Parliament for the repeal of the Navigation Laws, and being of opinion that the provisions of that Bill are calculated to remove those restrictions from which the trade of this Province is now suffering, we most humbly pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to recommend the subject of the repeal of the Navigation Laws to the favorable consideration of the Imperial Parliament.

And we would further humbly pray, that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to authorize the Governor of this Province to permit Foreign Vessels to navigate the *St. Lawrence* above *Quebec*, under such restrictions as His Excellency may in his wisdom see fit to impose.

The Address being read a second time, was agreed to.

Ordered, That the said Address be engrossed.

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 requesting the concurrence of their Honors thereto.

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

Ordered, That the remaining Orders of the day be postponed until to-morrow. Orders deferred.

Then, on motion of the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Baldwin*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Viger*,

The House adjourned.

Martis, 30^o die Januarii;

ANNO 12^o VICTORIÆ REGINÆ, 1849.

THE following Petitions were severally brought up, and laid on the table:— Petitions brought up

By Mr. *Smith*, of *Wentworth*,—The Petition of the Mayor and Councillors of the Town of *Brantford*.

By Mr. *Johnson*,—The Petition of the Municipal Council of the District of *Ottawa* (Courts of Assize).

By Mr. *DeWitt*,—The Petition of *J. Brazeau* and others, of *Ste. Martine*; the Petition of *John Molson*, Esquire, Chairman on behalf of the Company of Proprietors of the *Champlain* and *St. Lawrence* Railroad (Dues to Harbour Commissioners).

By Mr. *Taché*,—The Petition of the Reverend *J. B. Grenier* and divers inhabitants of the Village of *St. Arsène de Kakouna*; the Petition of *B. Dionne*, Esquire, and others, of the Parish of *St. George de Kakouna* and *St. Arsène de Kakouna*, County of *Rimouski*; the Petition of the Mayor and Councillors of the Municipality of *Rimouski* (Provincial Statutes); the Petition of *Alexis Gagné*, of the Parish of *St. Louis de Kamouraska*; and the Petition of the Mayor and Councillors of the County of *Rimouski* (Extension of Limits).

By Mr. *Egan*,—The Petition of Messrs. *LeMessurier*, *Tilstone*, and Company, and others interested in the Timber Trade; the Petition of *John Foran*, and others engaged in the Timber Trade on the River *Ottawa* and its tributaries; the Petition of *George B. de Boucherville*, of *Montreal*, Esquire; and the Petition of *Baxter Bowman*, Esquire, and others interested in the Timber Trade.

By Mr. *Marquis*,—The Petition of the Reverend *L. A. Bourret* and divers inhabitants of the County of *Kamouraska*.

By Mr. *Notman*,—The Petition of *John Burwell*, of *Port Burwell*, in the District of *London*, Esquire.

By Mr. *Macdonald*, of *Glengary*,—The Petition of the Reverend *Aeneas M. Donald* and others, the Catholic Clergy and Laity of the Parish of *Cornwall*; and the Petition of *Charles Curtis Farran*, of the Township of *Osnabrock*, County of *Stormont*.

By the Honorable Mr. *Merritt*,—The Petition of *Robert Hamilton*, and others, of the District of *Niagara*.

By Mr. *Lemieux*,—The Petition of *F. X. Thompson*.

By Mr. *Laurin*,—The Petition of Mrs. *Louise O. Beauzet*, widow of the late *Z. Grenier*, and wife of *J. H. Martin*, of the Parish of *St. Rémi*, District of *Montreal*.