

HALIFAX, N. S., 16th September, 1879.

The Hon. Minister of Customs, Ottawa.

In re Drawback on Tin Plates.

Sir,—I take the liberty of addressing you direct on the above subject, with the hope that you will redress a grievance under which I am suffering, and as I find it impossible to get any satisfaction from your Commissioner, whom I have addressed direct on the subject, and also through the Hon. James McDonald. I have every desire to comply to the utmost with the regulations of your Department, but as regards the subject matter of this letter, a certain regulation has been made with which, in some cases it is impossible for me to comply, viz., the giving up of an original bill of lading, and my reasons for same have been fully set forth in the correspondence above alluded to. I presume that all your Department can require is ample proof of the *bona fides* of the applications for drawback. For this purpose the original bill of lading is asked as an evidence of the export of the canned goods, and it is professed that this is done in the interests of the exporter, to save the trouble and expense of procuring landing certificates from foreign countries.

Now, as I am by far the largest exporter in Canada of these goods, my views can be seen on this point when I say that I very much prefer procuring the landing certificates to the giving up of original bills of lading—in fact, there are cases in which these *cannot* be given up; if it be your decision that no other proof of export will be taken, no matter how conclusive such proof may be, I suppose I must bow to it, but I cannot suppose it to be your intention to throw vexatious and absolutely needless restrictions in the way of this industry, which now is of so much importance in the Maritime Provinces.

That you may see how directly I am affected and interested in this matter, I may inform you that my shipments since June in this year aggregate 79,458 cases, in value about \$400,000. so that I am not taking all the trouble of this correspondence in a matter in which I am not largely interested; and I would respectfully suggest that the Commissioner would be better employed in removing obstacles from the way of this large industry, than in casting them in it, as it is patent to me it is his disposition to do.

The immediate cause of this letter to you has been the return of the enclosed paper to me, with drawback refused, where I have marked same, *although my application was accompanied with proofs of the landing of the goods abroad.*

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) ISAAC H. MATHERS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

OTTAWA, 24th November, 1879.

DEAR MR. BOWELL,—I enclose a letter addressed to me by Mr. Mathers, of Halifax, with reference to draw-backs on tin, which has been before you. Will you kindly give your attention to it.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JAS. McDONALD.

The Hon. M. BOWELL, &c., &c.

MEMO.:—Mr. Johnson, please let me know why these drawbacks have not been paid.

(Signed) M. BOWELL.