

American produce was easily shipped at low freights, thus placing the Canadian farmer in a much worse position than the American.

That it has been proposed to send the Canadian wheat to the United States of America in order to be ground, and then shipped by way of New York to Great Britain as American flour.

That your petitioners are averse to employing a foreign port, canals, forwarders, and millers, if it can possibly be avoided; but regret to say, without considerable modification in the British Navigation Laws, they fear so disastrous a course will ultimately be pursued, wherever there may be a sudden demand, or a want of shipping,—a course much to the injury of Canada, without the slightest benefit to the British shipowner.

That in the event of American vessels being allowed to take in cargoes for Britain at a Canadian port, it is highly probable that a vast amount of the produce of the western portion of the United States would find its way through the magnificent canals, constructed at so great an expense, under British guarantee, increasing the tolls of such canals so as to make them profitable, instead of being a heavy burden to the community.

Wherefore your petitioners most humbly pray Your Majesty to repeal the British Navigation Laws, so far as relates to Canadian ports, or to act in the premises as your wisdom may deem meet.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) J. T. BRONDGUST, (L.S.)
President of the Hamilton Board of Trade.

(Signed) ARCH^d KERR, (L.S.)
Vice President of the Hamilton Board of Trade.

(Signed) J. T. GILKINSON. (L.S.)

J^s OSBORNE. (L.S.)

Hamilton, Canada West,
Friday, 11th June 1847.

No. 15.

(No. 73.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor-general the Right honourable the Earl of ELGIN to Earl GREY.

My Lord, Government House, Montreal, 27th July 1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a joint address from the Legislative Council and Assembly to the Queen, praying for the free navigation of the St. Lawrence by all nations, and the repeal of the Navigation Laws so far as respects this colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

No. 15.
Earl of Elgin
to
Earl Grey,
27th July 1847.

Enclosure in No. 15.

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council and the Commons of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty for the purpose of assuring Your Majesty of the steadfast loyalty of the people of this province, and their profound attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government, and of representing to Your Majesty, that the changes which have recently been made in the commercial policy of Great Britain have produced embarrassments and difficulties in the trade of this colony, which, unless promptly met, may ultimately prove highly injurious to the empire. That this province has incurred a large debt for the construction of public improvements, chiefly for rendering our access to the ocean more easy and less expensive, and for maintaining our trade with the mother country and with foreign nations through the channel of the St. Lawrence, in the hope of shortly attracting through the same route the vast products of the western portion of this continent. That the continuance of the protection in the British markets, which Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects in this province had hitherto so advantageously enjoyed, would have fully realized their expectations in this respect; but that the commercial changes which the wisdom of the Imperial Par-

Encl. in No. 15.