

producer the cost of production, nor is there a return of interest on the capital originally invested, either in buying and clearing of waste lands, or in the purchase of improved estates.

Your Committee have not made a very minute inquiry as to the values of ashes, beef, pork, and other staple exports, although it is a well known fact, that they do not bring to the agriculturist a remunerating price for his capital and labor.

The average last season, at Quebec, for pearl ashes was about 25s. 6d. the cwt., and for pots, 24s.; pork was met in that market by a supply from Ireland, and the prices fell in consequence.\* Lumber appears to have been the only staple which commanded favorable prices, but there are many sections of the Province which receive little or no benefit from it as an export to places abroad.† Although 1122 vessels, measuring 315, 803 tons, arrived last year at Quebec, the greater number being for cargoes of lumber, yet there is such an uncertainty as to the course the British Government may pursue with regard to the discriminating duty in favor of American timber, that the disposition to embark capital in that very precarious article of traffic is much lessened of late years.

Another cause of distress is to be found in the restrictions laid on the trade of the Colony, and the disadvantages under which the land owners and merchants labor, as compared with the same classes on the opposite frontier.‡

Laws for the regulation of our trade and commerce are enacted in the Parliament of the United Kingdom,|| and continually changed and varied without our being consulted for our interest, al-

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\* Vide page 44, Appendix.

† Vide pages 37 and 38, Appendix.

‡ See Appendix, pages 57 & 58 & 69.

|| See Appendix, pages 22, 44, 45, 46, & 49.