

the extra rate of interest; but also towards recompensing the lender for the risk he runs—From this cause the most wealthy class of money lenders are often unwilling to lend on any terms—That the law first enacted at a period when such matters were but little understood, and when a superstitious feeling existed against any interest being received—and that such causes no longer existing there is no occasion for the law being continued.

That although it is just and right that a rate should be affixed where no specific agreement exists—and that the present rate is just—still, that parties ought to be allowed to make what agreement they please.

That in the United Kingdom the usury laws have been partially repealed, to the great benefit of trade, and that, owing to the great scarcity of money, and the facility of using it to profit in this province, the necessity for such repeal is much more obvious than in the said United Kingdom.

That a law existed in the late province of *Upper Canada* annexing interest to all accounts or bills from the day they became due, whether protested or not, but not in *Lower Canada*; and that it appears just that such law should exist and be general—and praying for a repeal of the usury law so far as respects the penalty in case of receiving more than six per cent, and making general the said law of the late province of *Upper Canada* allowing interest on all bills and accounts when they become due.

*Ordered*—That the said Petition do lie upon the table.

A Petition of the Board of Trade of *Montreal* respecting the Inspection of Pork, Beef, Flour, Ashes, &c., was presented to the House by the Honorable Mr. *Moffatt*, and the same was received and read; setting forth:—That there exist in *Canada* certain Laws and Ordinances, ordering that the following articles, viz: Flour and Meat, Pork and Beef and Pot and Pearl ashes, be inspected by legal Inspectors previous to exportation—and affixing a penalty for exporting the said articles without such inspection.

Petition from Board of Trade of Montreal praying for amendment of Inspection laws

That this law has been productive of great good to the Province while the putting up of these articles was imperfect, and when the export was too small for any one person's manufacture to obtain a character in the markets.

That, from the formation of large and highly respectable establishments in the manufacture and preparation of the articles before named, there is in many cases no necessity for such inspection—although ordinary parcels of goods will always require it—so that the office and its duties will have to be continued; but as applicable to the merchandize prepared by the large establishments before mentioned, whose brand is well known, its interference is not only needless but injurious in effect—in as much as it produces mediocrity, by not affixing a superior brand to an article however superior in quality—such goods, if sold only by the manufacturer's or packer's brand, would be estimated by the general quality, and in consequence, such manufacturers or packers would have a direct interest, not in making or packing an article just to pass inspection, but to give the greatest possible satisfaction.

That nothing but the necessity of inspection, together with the expense and time lost in inspecting, cooperating, loading and unloading, prevents very large quantities of produce being sent from one part of the adjacent states of *America* to another part thereof, through the Province of *Canada*, thereby giving employment to barges and labourers and adding greatly to the tolls of the various canals and other public works; and petitioners pray that sanction be given to a bill repealing the clauses in the se-