

"To illustrate this, we beg most respectfully to call the attention of your most honourable house to the following facts:—

"The average rates of freight from the Baltic may be estimated at from 14s. to 18s. per load, while those from British America are from 30s. to 33s. per load. The existing difference of duties in favour of the colonies is 14s. on timber and 18s. on deals; so that in fact there is literally no protection in favour of colonial wood.

"The proposed reduction of 7s. per load on timber and 10s. on deals would operate as a direct differential duty against British America. What, therefore, must be the inevitable effect if the contemplated alteration takes place? Nothing but absolute ruin to the trade and those engaged in it, together with almost if not total loss of the immense capital invested for a successful prosecution of the trade with the mother country.

We need not point out to your most honourable house, that the British market is really the only one we have to look to for the export of our great staples, shut out as we are from the ports of the United States by prohibitory wood duties of 20 per cent., which renders any shipment to that quarter of comparatively little benefit.

"We, therefore, humbly and earnestly pray your most honourable house to take this our petition into your most favorable consideration, and adopt such measures as will secure to us the advantages consequent upon our connection with the mother country, and avert the evils which must inevitably ensue if the contemplated change should be carried into effect."

"WILLIAM BLACK, President Legislative Council.

CHARLES SIMONDS, Speaker of the Assembly."