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NEW
BRUNSWICK.

— No. 8. —

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Bliss*, Esq. to Lord *John Russell*.11, King's Bench Walk, Temple,
15 June 1841.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Lordship a petition to Her Majesty the Queen, from the parishes of St. Stephen, St. David, and St. James, in the province of New Brunswick, on the colonial and timber duties, deprecating the measures recently proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and stating the very injurious consequences to the petitioners and to the colony.

This petition has been transmitted to me, with a request to lay it before your Lordship, in order to its being presented to Her Majesty. Your Lordship's kindness in presenting this petition will be a great obligation to the petitioners.

I remain, &c,
(signed) *Henry Bliss*.

No. 8.

H. Bliss, Esq. to
Lord *John Russell*,
15 June 1841.

Enclosure in No. 8.

TO the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of the Magistrates, Merchants, Ship-owners, Mill-owners, and other Inhabitants of the Parishes of St. Stephen, St. David and St. James, in the County of Charlotte and Province of New Brunswick.

Encl. in No. 8.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR petitioners have recently learned, with much regret, that the question of a revision of the wood duties has again been introduced by your Majesty's Government to the consideration of the Imperial Parliament.

The announcement of a measure so unlooked for has filled your petitioners, in common with all your Majesty's loyal subjects in this province, with great alarm, especially as a measure so deeply affecting their vital interests has come to their knowledge at so late a period as almost, if not altogether, to exclude them from an opportunity of laying at your Majesty's feet their humble representations of its ruinous effects to the lumber trade of the province before the close of the present session of Parliament.

The number of saw-mills in St. Stephen is 38, and the quantity of shipping is 8,400 tons, comprising 36 vessels, nearly all of which are calculated only for the West India trade.

The quantity of boards shipped from St. Stephen alone to the British West Indies in 1839 was 13,254,961 feet superficial measure, and of shingles 19,456,100, as shown by the books of the sub-collector of your Majesty's customs at St. Stephen.

The number of saw-mills in the county of Charlotte is upwards of 100, and the shipping amounts to from 16,000 to 20,000 tons.

Almost the entire shipping of the county has grown up under the fostering influence of the protection granted to colonial lumber in the British West India market, but a small proportion of their shipping being employed in the European wood trade.

The contemplated reduction of the duty on foreign lumber in the British West Indies would give a decided advantage to United States vessels over colonial vessels. In the first place United States vessels are sailed at a very considerable expense less than our vessels, and they would have the additional important advantage, after selling their cargoes in the British islands, of proceeding to the Spanish and other islands, and taking a return freight of produce to the United States. From this benefit colonial vessels would be almost wholly excluded, in consequence of the limited demand in these colonies for the produce of those islands.

The sudden withdrawal of the present protection to the colonial wood trade in the home and colonial markets must, it is obvious, be ruinous to the shipping interest of the province, and give a shock to its general prosperity, from the effects of which it would not soon recover.

Your petitioners, although alarmed at the present aspect of affairs in relation to the trade in their only staple of exportation, will still hope that a due regard will be had to interests which have been called into existence by imperial legislation, and that the power which