

Encl. in No. 10.

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To the Right Honourable WILLIAM GLADSTONE, M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Memorial of the Montreal Board of Trade,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your memorialists observe Her Majesty's Government have proposed to Parliament certain changes in the customs duties of Great Britain, under which salted provisions and various other articles are to be at once admitted into the United Kingdom duty free.

That by the Imperial Act 5 & 6 Vict. c. 49. salted provisions, and many of the articles above referred to, are liable to heavy duties when imported into Canada from foreign states; and it appears to your memorialists, that to maintain such duties in Canada, while they are abandoned in the United Kingdom, will have a most injurious effect on the trade of this colony, and will prevent it realizing any advantages which may be derived from becoming the channel through which a portion of the provisions of the United States may reach the British market.

Wherefore, your memorialists humbly pray Her Majesty's Government will recommend to Parliament the repeal of the imperial duties on all such articles imported into Canada, as by the proposed Customs' Duties Bill may be admitted duty free into the United Kingdom.

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

(signed) G. MOFFATT,

President of the Montreal Board of Trade.

Montreal, 26 March 1846.

FREDERICK N. WILLSON, Secretary.

No. 11.

(No. 62.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE to Governor the Earl CATHCART, K. C. B.

No. 11.

Mr. Secretary
Gladstone to Earl
Cathcart,
4 May 1846.

My Lord,

Downing Street, 4 May 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches, Nos. 27 and 31, in which you enclose addresses to myself from the Boards of Trade at Quebec and Montreal, praying for the repeal of certain provisions in the Imperial Enactments, 5 & 6 Vict. c. 49, and 8 & 9 Vict. c. 93, the continuance of which, it is represented, will seriously affect the trade of Canada, if the proposed alterations in the commercial policy of this Country should be sanctioned by Parliament.

I have to instruct your Lordship to acquaint the memorialists, in answer, that the interests of Canada continue to engage the lively solicitude of Her Majesty's Government; but that they have felt it their duty to decline acceding to the request that the system denominated "naturalization" of goods may be introduced into the pending law, upon grounds which they conceive to be of such force as to leave them no option. Her Majesty's Government are, however, by no means similarly pledged or disposed to refuse consideration to the question, how far the Imperial duties chargeable in Canada may be susceptible of alteration with advantage, though they entertain the opinion that it would be premature to enter upon that subject without further knowledge than we now possess of the sentiments of the various parties interested in it. With respect to the article of timber, adverted to in the memorial of the Board of Trade of Montreal, your Lordship will observe to the Memorialists, that Parliament has already declared itself on that question in unison with the views of Her Majesty's Government; but your Lordship will be pleased likewise to add, that Her Majesty's Government are firmly persuaded, that the British North American timber, from its own useful properties, and with the aid of the reduced protection which it is proposed to retain, as well as from the energy and intelligence of those who trade in it, and their command of capital, will continue to hold its place in the British market.

I have, &c.

(signed) W. E. GLADSTONE.
