

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

information as he might think useful in the consideration of measures necessary for the regulation of the trade, which he accordingly did in a letter to Major Hillier.

Your memorialist went to York again in September following, and found that His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland had thought it proper to communicate with Earl Bathurst, previous to taking any steps in the matter. An answer having been received from His Lordship shortly before, His Excellency proceeded to the consideration of the subject as soon as other business permitted, and Your Memorialist had the honour of giving His Excellency in Council what local information he could communicate and of stating the opinion he had been led to form on the subject.

After a very attentive investigation The Honble. Executive Council submitted a report of considerable length to His Excellency, and your memorialist received the following letter from Major Hillier, dated

GOVT. HOUSE, 9th Nov., 1825.

DEAR SIR,—The consideration of the Government has been very attentively given to the subject of the present state of the timber trade in this Province, and a report made by the Executive Council will be transmitted without loss of time to Lord Bathurst, containing certain suggestions calculated to place the matter, as it is hoped, on a more clearly defined and better footing for the future.

With respect to the adoption of any intermediate measure it will be clear to you that, even were the Lieut. Governor disposed to assume such a responsibility, the situation of the river Ottawa (in the circumstance of its left bank, during its whole course through this Province, being within the limit of another government) would render such measures in a great degree nugatory.

In making this communication to you, I am commanded by His Excellency to express to you his thanks for the valuable information you have afforded to the government on the matter in question.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

G. HILLIER.

CHARLES SHIRREFF, Esq.

The matter being brought to this point with the government of the upper province, the stay of the memorialist at York was no longer necessary. Still, however, the business was but half completed, as from the situation of the River Ottawa, dividing as it does the two provinces for several hundred miles, any measures respecting the timber trade which might have been adopted by the Government of one, could only have been made effectual, as Major Hillier remarks, by the co-operation of that of the other.

A communication, therefore, on the subject with your Lordship became desirable, and it was proposed as the shortest and most effectual mode that the memorialist should proceed to Quebec and request an opportunity of stating and explaining the business; which he did as soon as the ice became safe for travelling from his residence on the Ottawa.

Your Lordship gave the subject immediate attention and after due consideration and enquiry, the Honourable Executive Council submitted to your Lordship the propriety of adopting and co-operating in the measures recommended by the Government of the Upper Province. In consequence thereof and in order to remedy the inconveniences which arose from the trade being on an illegal footing, proclamations were issued of the same tenor by each Province giving liberty to cut timber on the waste and unappropriated lands upon payment of certain prices to the Crown. * * * *

On receiving the accounts and returns at the end of the first season, the Honourable Executive Council of the Lower Province expressed their sense of the salutary effect of the measures which had been adopted in terms, too flattering perhaps to the memorialist. (The terms are given but are here omitted). * * * *