

"To the Honorable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

"The Petition of the undersigned Merchants and other Persons interested in the Trade of Great Britain and its Colonies, residing within the Port of London,

SHEWETH,

"That your petitioners are most seriously apprehensive there is an intention to continue the duties imposed by the Acts of the 43rd, 44th, and 46th, years of his present Majesty, on the *tonnage* of British shipping, and on goods and merchandizes *exported* and carried coastwise, after the expiration of the present war, *notwithstanding the solemn assurances given to your petitioners that the same should cease with it*; and which, if adopted, will be attended with the most ruinous consequences to the trading interests of the country.

"Your petitioners beg leave, with the greatest humility, to state to your honorable House, that the *depressed state* of the trading and shipping interests of the country, *results principally from the suspension* of the Navigation Act, and the *indulgences* granted to *neutrals*, both in the trade of the countries of the enemies of Great Britain, and in the trade of the King's dominions.

"Your petitioners venture, with great deference and respect, to state, they *are ready* and desirous to *prove* the facts alleged by them, *in support of their allegation*, that the trading and shipping interests are laboring under great depression, not only from the heavy impositions to which they are subject, but also from *the relaxations* before mentioned; and that any measure which continues the duties on the tonnage of British ships, and the war duties on exports, would at any time be productive of the most serious danger to British navigation and commerce, but especially on the return of peace.

"Your petitioners therefore most humbly pray your honorable House, that the duties on exports and tonnage imposed by the acts before mentioned, *may cease* with the present war: that *an enquiry* may be made into the *actual* state of the shipping and navigation of the country; and that *in future* the navigation and colonial system of Great Britain *may be adhered to*, so as to enable the British ship-owners again to enter into competition with the *neutral* carrier.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Charles Bosanquet
Henry Davidson

William Lushington
John Mavor