

— No. 3. —

(No. 330.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord Stanley to the Right honourable
Sir Charles Bagot, G.C.B.

No. 3.
Despatch from
Lord Stanley to the
Right hon. Sir
Charles Bagot,
2 March 1843.

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 March 1843.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 19) of the 27th January, enclosing a petition addressed to the Queen by the Board of Trade at Quebec, praying that the Royal Assent may be withheld from the Bill passed in the last session of the Legislature of Canada, by which a duty was imposed on the importation of foreign wheat into that province, until the Imperial Parliament shall have passed a law authorizing the free admission into the United Kingdom and the British Colonies of all grain and flour exported from Canada.

I have to acquaint you, in answer, that I have laid this petition before the Queen, and that Her Majesty was graciously pleased to signify Her readiness to take the prayer of it into Her consideration when the proper time shall arrive for deciding upon the provincial enactment.

I have, &c.

(signed) Stanley.

— No. 4. —

(No. 35.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable Sir Charles Bagot, G.C.B.,
to Lord Stanley, dated Government House, Kingston, 24 February 1843.

No. 4.
Extract of a
Despatch from the
Right hon. Sir
Charles Bagot to
Lord Stanley,
24 February 1843.

For Lord Stanley's
Despatch, 1 Feb.
1843, vide Papers
ordered by the
House of Commons
to be printed,
13 Feb. 1843,
No. 18, p. 5.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 1st instant, No. 320, desiring to be furnished with a report in explanation of the grounds upon which the Wheat Duty Bill was passed by the Canadian Houses of Assembly during the past season.

Your Lordship will have already received a despatch upon this subject, which I transmitted by the last mail, accompanying reports upon the other Bills of the same session.

To these I have now to add a copy of a Minute of my Council drawn up on this document.

The Minute of the Committee of Council will furnish your Lordship with the information required in the concluding paragraph of your despatch relative to the possible effect of the exemption contained in the second clause of the Bill in admitting frauds upon the revenue, and an abuse of the privilege which may be accorded in the United Kingdom to wheat which shall have paid the provincial duty.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Encl. in No. 4.

EXTRACT of a REPORT of a Committee of the Executive Council, dated 23d February 1843, on the subject of the Bill passed last Session, for imposing a Duty upon American Wheat.

WITH respect to the inquiry contained in the last clause of his Lordship's despatch, regarding the exemption from duty of wheat and flour introduced by sea for the use of the fisheries, and the facility which such an exemption may give to the commission of frauds upon the revenue, which inquiry, the Committee observe, is not anticipated in your Excellency's despatch, the Committee beg respectfully to observe,

1st.—That Canada is very little concerned in the fisheries on the coast, as the fish taken there are exported directly to foreign countries; and the supplies are derived directly from England, in the shape of fishing-tackle, sails, rigging, and other like necessities; and the provisions are imported, by sea, from the ports in the United States.

2dly.—That the British fisheries trading with foreign countries and having no protection, would be absolutely ruined by any financial measure which would increase their expenses, and thus place them at a disadvantage as compared with the foreign fisheries, particularly as the former do not enjoy the encouragement of bounty on the exportation of fish, afforded by the eastern colonies and by the Americans.

3dly.—That the exemption was introduced to favour a trade in which British shipping and British capitalists are interested; and that the only possible interest which the interior of Canada could have in the question would be in favour of a duty on foreign supply