# PETITION

## To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada in Parliament assembled:

The memorial of the undersigned merchants, manufacturers and others from the various sections of the said Province, assembled in public meeting at Toronto,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That your memorialists desire to call the attention of your Honorable House to the depression which all branches of manufactures and commerce now suffer in the Province, and to the necessity that exists for a consideration of the causes to which this depression is wholly or in part attributable.

That in the opinion of your memoralists, the difficulties now experienced by all classes of the community, are, in a large degree, the consequence of the unfair competition to which the present tariff of the Province exposes its various branches of industry; and that with a view to the promotion of general prosperity, a re-adjustment of the scale of duties levied upon imports, has become an absolute necessity.

That the existing tariff is based upon erroneous principles, inasmuch as it admits, at low rates of duty, the manufactures of other countries, which are thus brought into collision with a class of labor now in Canada not fitted for agricultural pursuits; and charges high rates on articles that cannot be produced within our boundaries.

That apart from the prevailing depression, the present Provincial tariff operates disadvantageously by preventing the influx of capital, which under due encouragement, would be introduced and applied for the development of our natural resources; and, moreover, to limit the scope of industry as to offer impediments in the way of skill, and largely lesson the attractiveness of Canada as a field for immigration.

That a re-adjustment of the tariff, if governed by principles in themselves just, will materially benefit every class of the community, without in any manner crippling the Customs' revenue.