

The Agent for Quebec was called before the Committee of the House of Commons, sitting on the Timber Trade, by a notice from the Board of Trade. No contemplated alteration of the Timber Duties was positively known at Quebec, when he was despatched on the 3rd April. Several notices of motions by Mr. ROEBUCK, Member for Bath, were on the Books of the House of Commons, when he arrived in England, for equalizing the Duties on Canada and Baltic Timber, but they were dropped, and finally a Committee was appointed on motion of Mr. C. POULETT THOMSON, President of the Board of Trade. Mr. NELSON appeared before the Committee on the 30th June and 1st July, and he had no hesitation in giving in to the Committee, documents relating to the capital and property depending on the Trade in Lower Canada, with which he had been furnished, in support of the Petitions of which he was the bearer, besides giving such other information regarding the extent and character of the Trade, as was within his knowledge.

On the 10th July, he addressed a letter to Lord GLENELG, Secretary to the Colonial Department, and to several Members of Parliament whom he had seen, and were known to take much interest in the welfare of the Colonies. From the before-mentioned letter, the following is an extract:—

“ I beg leave, at present, more particularly to call your attention to the Timber question, now before a Committee of the House of Commons.

“ It was not expected when I left Quebec in the beginning of April last, that this question would be agitated this Session. We thought the last alteration of the duties, after the general peace in Europe, was final, and particularly after the rejection of a proposed alteration four years ago.

“ People in Canada had good reason to calculate on the present scale of duties. An immediate alteration would be little better than taking money out of one man's pocket to give it to another.

“ The announcement of a prospective alteration would discourage those who wish to maintain the connexion with this country, and encourage those who are turning their attention elsewhere.

“ I have reason to think that the value of the timber exported from Canada, in 1833, formed more than *one-half* the value of all the exports from both Provinces, and in 1834 more than *two-thirds* of the whole. It is by means of these exports that the inhabitants supply themselves with what they cannot get on their farms, there being no manufactories in the country, and the climate of Lower Canada, generally, allowing of no surplus of corn and provisions.

“ In truth, the inhabitants of Lower Canada, nine-tenths of whom are agriculturalists, have always depended for a supply of every thing but food and some coarse clothing of family manufacture, on exports produced by some other employments. In early times it was hunting and fishing; latterly, getting out, preparing and shipping timber and lumber.

“ This country has suffered the United States' people to occupy the fisheries, and an Act of Parliament passed some years ago, turned the fur trade to Hudson's Bay.

“ An alteration of the duties now, would leave the inhabitants of the British North American Colonies in a worse situation than those of the United States. It is a fact, that lumber brings a higher price in the American seaports than at Quebec, and that the wages of labour are higher in the adjoining States than in the Canadas. This is a state of things which British subjects in the Colonies ought not to see increased.