

consequence, deprived Canada of the many advantages formerly enjoyed in the markets of the United Kingdom, they have a just claim for relief.

That your petitioners are of opinion that there exists much ground for apprehension that should the Navigation Laws (so far as they affect Canada) continue in force, after all protection to Canadian grain and flour is withdrawn, that the bulk of the produce, both of the Western States of America and of Canada West, will be sent to the ports of the United States for shipment, notwithstanding the superior advantages in economy of transport which the internal communications of Canada possess, but which are counterbalanced by the greater cheapness of ocean freight in the United States of America, thus preventing the raising of a sufficient revenue from the extensive public works, constructed with funds obtained partly under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, and injuring seriously the commerce of Canada, without affording the slightest protection to British shipping.

That the portion relating to Canada, in a Bill "to amend the Laws in force for the encouragement of British Shipping and Navigation," brought into the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, on the 16th of August last, by the Right Hon. Lord John Russell, Mr. Bernal, and Mr. Labouchere, meets the views of your petitioners, inasmuch as it proposes to leave the merchants of Canada at liberty to employ such vessels as may offer, in their commerce with Great Britain and other nations, and concedes to the Provincial Legislature of Canada the power to regulate the coasting trade and inland navigation of the province, subject to your Majesty's Orders in Council.

Wherefore Your petitioners humbly pray Your Majesty to act in the premises as you, in your Royal wisdom, may deem proper.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

(Signed)

ARCH. KERR, V. P.

W. P. M'LAREN.

J. T. BROUDGUOT, Secretary.

Hamilton, January 4, 1849.

Similar petitions addressed to the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament.

(No. 13.)

No. 5.

i No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Montreal,  
January 18, 1849.

MY LORD,

(Received February 5, 1849.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, the copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Hincks, the Inspector-General of this Province, showing the results of the efforts made during the past season by a most respectable and enterprising mercantile house in this city to open a trade with the far West for the introduction, by the route of the St. Lawrence, of various articles which have hitherto been supplied exclusively through the Mississippi or the Erie Canal. Your Lordship will not fail to observe how formidable an obstacle the existing Navigation Laws oppose to the establishment of a trade which is calculated to prove so beneficial both to Canada and the mother country.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 5.

DEAR SIR,

Montreal, December 28, 1848.

Encl. in No. 5.

WE would now redeem the promise made you by our Mr. Young, and proceed to possess you of the facts attending our efforts during the past season to open a trade with the far West for the introduction by the route of the St. Lawrence of various articles which have hitherto been supplied exclusively through the Mississippi or the Erie Canal from New York.

Wishing practically to prove the capability of our canal improvements, we chartered two of our largest propellers, the "Ireland" and "Free Trader," and purchased several thousand minots of Irica salt, which we obtained at 25 cents per minot of 80 pounds; and not only tested the ability of opening the trade between Quebec and Chicago, but demonstrated the difference of the cost of transport between the St. Lawrence and the New York route to be in favour of Canada; the freight of salt upwards being only 12½ cents per minot, and the vessels loading downwards at the rate of 18 cents per bushel of wheat and corn.

This first adventure being undertaken more with a view to giving notoriety to the new route and calling the attention of the people of Illinois and Ohio to its being the cheapest as an outlet for their products, we offered the salt to a correspondent at Chicago for a commission of 5 per cent. on the invoice, which was accepted; and we have understood they were well pleased with their bargain, as we shortly after received orders from other parties for large quantities, which, unfortunately, we could not procure in our limited market.