

repaired at the expense of the owner, at prices imposed by a Legislature who are interested in making as many and as high charges as the article will bear, and thus a serious drawback to the productive industry of this country is created.

Every boat, raft or craft passing down to the Lower Province is compelled to take a clearance from some port here, and to make a custom-house entry on arriving in Lower Canada, under nearly the same restrictions as if going to a foreign country, in consequence of which regulations our boats actually pay a duty of from 2s. 6d. to 5s. each trip, to avoid the unnecessary delay at the Coteau du Lac, and from 5s. to 20s. in case they should have any produce of the growth of the United States, although those very articles are admitted into this province free of duty, under the Act for regulating the colonial trade.

Your Majesty's subjects arriving from Great Britain and Ireland are obliged, after undergoing the inconvenience and misery occasioned by severe quarantine laws, to pay a heavy tax for the mere privilege of passing through the Lower Province, a restriction imposed by no other government, and which tax your Majesty's subjects in this province have always declared to be unconstitutional as well as oppressive.

The profit made on the importation of foreign goods or British manufactures consumed in this province, or the sale of produce raised therein, and sold by the Lower Canada merchant for consumption in any sea-port in British America, or beyond sea, together with the profit on shipping, commission and other incidental advantages, is retained in Lower Canada, and consequently that province obtains the principal benefit of a trade which but for the industry and enterprise of Upper Canada would scarcely have an existence.

Your Majesty's subjects consider the general division of duties unfair, and that the inhabitants of this province have been deprived of their proportion of the duties collected under the statutes of 3 Geo. 4, c. 44, 45 & 119, which have been and still are, up to the present moment, wholly withheld; that no account of the expenses for collecting the same is furnished, and great and unnecessary expenses have been incurred from time to time in negotiating for the proportion due to Upper Canada, without arriving at any satisfactory result.

A further injury to the interests of your Majesty's subjects in this province is also occasioned by this state of things, inasmuch as a tax is necessarily imposed on the inhabitants in each district for the erection of gaols and court-houses, and all other internal and local purposes; whereas that part of your Majesty's subjects residing in the Lower Province are wholly exempt from any taxation for these objects, their portion of the revenue derived from foreign commerce being ample to defray these expenditures.

That your Majesty's subjects residing within this province, in their approach to the ocean, are subjected to a most serious expense in the transportation of their produce and merchandise by the St. Lawrence: they have made every exertion for the last four years to alleviate this evil, by rendering that noble river navigable; but their efforts are and must be to a great extent rendered unavailing, so long as the portion of the river above Montreal continues under the control of another Legislature, who do not feel the same interest in the completion of this improvement.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons would further represent that the union of the island of Montreal with Upper Canada would be doing no injustice to those of your Majesty's subjects at present residing within that portion of Lower Canada, inasmuch as it is the desire of your Majesty's faithful Commons in this province that the inhabitants should be amply secured in the enjoyment of the privileges they now possess in every respect, except that they shall be under the jurisdiction of this Legislature in all matters connected with trade and commerce.

Your Majesty's faithful subjects in this House are decidedly of opinion that the annexation of a sea-port town to Upper Canada would be productive of greater advantages to the mother country, Lower Canada and this province, than any measure yet proposed in British America; it would arouse a spirit of enterprise in both provinces, which has hitherto lain in a great measure dormant; it would enable this province in a few years to complete the ship canal now in progress from our great lakes to the ocean; it would increase the demand for British commerce and employment for British seamen to an incalculable extent, by the opening of a market for the supply of the southern and western parts of the continent of America; and the port of Quebec would most probably export as great a quantity of grain and flour as all the ports in the United States put together; it would increase the revenue which would be still collected in Lower Canada to a greater amount than is now collected in both provinces; it would double the value of property in that part of Lower Canada which would thereby be attached to this province, and greatly enhance the value of property in every other part of it.

Your Majesty's subjects residing in this province, by the present boundary line, are not only deprived of the natural right they long since should have enjoyed, of free access to the sea, the St. Lawrence being a common highway to both provinces, of the control of a sea-port town, and of the wealth arising from foreign commerce, but in effect the Legislature of this province is rendered powerless; it is in vain to appoint finance committees to raise ways and means; or attempt any improvement on which they are to rely, either on duties or any indirect tax from a sea-port. The principal item to pay the interest on the loan contracted by the State of New York to construct the Erie Canal was two-and-a-half per cent. upon auction duties; this was collected in the city of New York, although it came out of the consumer to the westward. With us, your Majesty's faithful subjects