

"tion of objecting to any arrangement of this Department or of the Government." This statement is too hard and sweeping in its character, and I think that Halifax importers are as willing and ready to conform with all reasonable and practicable arrangements of your Department as they can be in any other part of the Dominion.

In the new form made, *re* tin drawbacks, the merchants, *i.e.*, the importers of tin and exporters of canned lobsters, in this one interest, are most anxious to comply with your regulations, but having due regard to their own character and the solemnity of an affidavit, they cannot, without injuring the one and destroying the truthfulness of the other, swear that they are the proprietors. Looking at former regulations, agents were in all cases permitted to take these affidavits, and if so, then why not now?

There may be circumstances governing drawbacks in other ports which may make the Order in Council work well, but please remember that three-fourths of the tin drawbacks of at least this Province are claimed and paid here. How easy for you to permit and order the paid "*agent of the proprietor*" to be substituted for the "*proprietor*," that would remove *all* objections to the affidavit.

Till this is done all tin drawbacks will be inoperative here.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. ROSS, *Collector*.

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, 5th August, 1879.

The Collector of Customs, Halifax, N.S.

SIR,—Referring to former correspondence touching the regulations for refunding duties paid on tin used in manufacture of cans to be filled with fish and exported, and also to further representations made by Mr. Isaac H. Mathers to the Hon. James Macdonald, under date of 20th ultimo, I am now desired by the Minister of Customs to inform you that there is nothing in the regulations to prevent Mr. Mathers from executing the affidavit and statements required, as agent—thus the affidavit may be filled up as follows:—"I, Isaac H. Mathers, of Halifax, do solemnly swear, that I am the authorized agent of the proprietor of the establishment," etc. This does not waive the necessity for a separate statement for each proprietor, but if any number of proprietors are concerned in the export by one vessel, one port entry and one bill of lading, embodying the particulars of all the consignments, as shewn in the copy sent to this Department, will be sufficient; these, however, must be originals and not copies.

The Manager of the Bank of Montreal here has assured this Department that the Bank never requires more than one bill of lading, but even if it were otherwise, it can be little more trouble to procure an additional original, than to have a copy prepared as proposed, and the requirement of the original is most essential to the Department.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) J. JOHNSON.

HALIFAX, N.S., 12th August, 1879.

The Hon. JAMES McDONALD, Ottawa.

SIR,—I beg to thank you for your very prompt reply to my letter of the 26th ultimo, and also for the point gained as to the collection of the drawback in question. This one point alone, however, I regret to say, leaves us in no better position than we were previously.

Nothing has been asked of the Customs Department, to which any common sense objection can possibly be urged, and it really would be a satisfaction if Mr. Johnson would either submit gracefully to the requirements of this business, or keep us from bothering our friends, by saying at once that no drawbacks will be granted. These