

"treaties with foreign countries; and, 2nd, The presentation of a Petition to His Excellency the Governor General of this Dominion, setting forth the disabilities under which Canadian commerce and manufactures struggle, by virtue of the present French Tariff, praying that the Government of this Dominion will take immediate steps to represent the whole question to Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen and Her Privy Council."

Nothing could be more eloquent to illustrate the abject and helpless position in which we stand with regard to commercial matters. Here is the chief officer of the General Board of Trade of this great Confederation of the Dominion of Canada, groaning under ruin and bankruptcy, and appealing for relief, not to his proud Government, but to the "Executive Council of the Association of chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom."

In the worst days of our Colonial history, we had to submit to Downing Street government, and that was considered bad enough then. But what has this great Dominion come to now, with its increased population, mighty canals, immense railway system, enormous shipping, extensive manufactures and increased trade?

It has come to this humiliating position that the Canadian Government and people are powerless to settle their own commercial policy; that the *Executive Council of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom*" alone hold in their hands the vital interests of this great Dominion. So much so, that Mr. Patterson feels the necessity of appealing to them first, and, in the second place only, to "His Excellency the Governor General. How far His Excellency and the Hon. Members of His Privy Council can be pleased, with this subordinate position on commercial matters, affecting their administration of the country, is a matter of appreciation. But it is doubtful that a famishing and impoverished people will wait upon the good will of the "Executive Council of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom," to allow