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ALTERATION IN THE TIMBER DUTIES.

NEW  
BRUNSWICK.

Spring. That vessels so arriving, and taking cargo, lose much time by waiting for the 1st of May, the period limited for carrying deck cargo. That vessels being so loaded might, with equal safety to life and property, be permitted to clear from the colonies at least on the 1st of April; and the benefit arising therefrom to the trade would be, the probability of obtaining two deck cargoes between the 1st of April to the 1st of September.

And your petitioners would further beg leave to remark, that the ships built in the colonies are constructed expressly for the purpose of carrying deck cargo, by having fixed staunchions, securely clamped with iron from deck to keel, at every beam; that the ships rated in England as unfit for dry cargoes, are thereon placed in the North American wood trade, a practice greatly detrimental to the character of colonial-built ships, as all disasters in our wood-carrying vessels are placed to the account of their being colonial built, though such is by no means the fact.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your Excellency will be pleased to bring under the notice of Her Majesty's Government the prayer of the merchants of this city; that the restriction of clearing vessels from the North American colonies with deck loads may be confined to the period from the 1st of September until the 1st of April in each year, which will give one month more in the Spring of each year than was allowed under the late law, and, in their opinion, would not increase the hazard or risk of the loss of life, which the said Act was no doubt humanely intended to prevent.

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

Saint John, New Brunswick, }  
12 May 1842. }

(signed) L. Donaldson, President.  
J. Woodward, Secretary.

