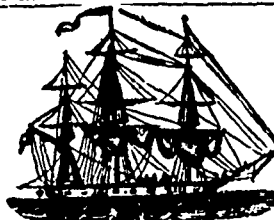


# CANADIAN ECONOMIST.



## FREE TRADE JOURNAL, AND WEEKLY COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Vol. I.]

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, 18TH JULY, 1846.

[No. 12.]

### CONTENTS.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1.—Free Trade Association.—Report.                   | 7.—Miscellaneous Extracts.                    |
| 2.—The Pilot and the Agricultural Protective Duties. | 8.—Intelligence—General and Local             |
| 3.—Shall Canada retain the Carrying Trade?           | 9.—Shipping Intelligence.                     |
| 4.—Free Traders require a Representative.            | 10.—Markets.—English, New York, and Montreal. |
| 5.—Speech of Lord Lyttleton.                         | 11.—Prices Current, &c.                       |
| 6.—United States Tariff.                             | 12.—Advertisements.                           |

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMIST.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, 18TH JULY, 1846.

### FREE-TRADE ASSOCIATION.

At a General Meeting of the Free-Trade Association, held yesterday morning, at their Rooms, 3, St. Sacrament Street, John Young, Esquire, Chairman of the Association, presiding, the following Report of the Committee appointed at a meeting of the Council held on the 26th of June last, was presented:—

### REPORT.

The intelligence received by the last English steamer, of the adoption in all its integrity by the House of Lords of the Corn Bill introduced by Sir R. PEEL, renders its final passage, which for some months past has been to a certain degree a subject of speculation, a matter of certainty; and it now becomes the duty of the Council of the Free-Trade Association to point out the consequences of that measure to the trade of this province, the means by which the evils, if any, likely to flow from it, may be mitigated or averted, and the benefits which may be deduced from it may be secured.

It can scarcely be denied, that under the protective system of Great Britain, and more especially under the Imperial Act of 1843, the application of the capital of the country to the growth and manufacture of breadstuffs for export to the mother country, has been artificially encouraged, and that the sudden and almost total withdrawal of the protection conferred on Canadian wheat and flour, has occasioned considerable losses to many, who, calculating on its continuance, were induced during the past winter to pay higher prices to the Canadian farmer than a prudent estimation of the prospects of the British markets would otherwise have warranted.

The Council of this Association, in making this statement, is not actuated by any desire to impugn the conduct of the British Ministry, or to question this exercise of the right of legislation which the Imperial Parliament undoubtedly possesses. They acknowledge that the paramount duty of the Government is to provide for the happiness and prosperity of the whole people, and they are sensible that such results can often only be obtained at the expense of much individual sacrifice. To the consequences of the fluctuations in the commercial system of Great Britain they must, as colonists, submit; and on this occasion they feel bound to state their conviction of the soundness of the principles on which her new commercial policy is based, and of their applicability, not only to the trade of Britain, but to that of the whole world.

But whilst the Council of this Association acquiesce on general grounds in the right and the expediency of the British Government withdrawing from this her colony the exclusive privileges she has hitherto enjoyed, they must, as a consequence, claim the removal of all restrictions on our trade with foreign nations, in the shape of discriminating duties with a view to protect British manufactures; in other words, that we may be free "to buy in the cheapest, and sell in the dearest markets."

That the British Government is prepared to concede, nay invites, this freedom of trade, may be fairly inferred from the whole tenor of the observations of the Ministry in the recent debates in the Imperial Parliament, and more especially from the following passage in the Despatch from the Colonial Secretary, Mr. GLADSTONE, to the Governor-General, dated 3rd March last, and reiterated in his subsequent Despatch to the same of 3rd June:—

"The desire of Her Majesty's Government is that the trade of Canada may, in all respects, approach as nearly to perfect freedom as the dispositions of its inhabitants and the exigencies of the public revenue there may permit."

Even without such a declaration, this Association would have relied with confidence, for the concession of this our claim, on the sense not only of justice but of liberality which characterises the conduct of Great Britain towards this colony. That sense of justice must indubitably prevent her from exacting a privilege or protection for her products and manufactures which she no longer yields to ours; and that feeling of liberality must deter her from continuing the shackles on our commerce which she has removed from her own.

Hitherto the amount of protection conceded to the products of Canada in the British markets has been so great as to throw into the shade the advantages which British products have enjoyed in this market,—at least such has been the prevailing opinion; but the following table, shewing at one view the discrimination which our tariff makes between British and Foreign, in some of our principal articles of import, amply proves that the inhabitants of Canada have not been lightly taxed in return for that protection:—

ARTICLES.	Foreign.	British.	Discrimination.
Books.....	12 per cent.	5 per cent.	7 per cent.
Candles, Spenn.....	{ 15 p. cent. & 2d. p. lb.	2d. per lb.	15 per cent.
"    Wax.....	{ 7 p. cent. & 2d. p. lb.	2d. "	7 per cent.
"    other kinds.....	{ 7 p. cent. & 1d. p. lb.	1d. "	7 per cent.
Coffee.....	{ 5s. p. cwt. & 1d. p. lb.	1d. "	5s. per cwt.
"    Roasted.....	{ 5s. p. cwt. & 2d. p. lb.	2d. "	5s. per cwt.
Glass & Glassware.....	20 per cent.	5 per cent.	15 per cent.
Harness.....	12 "	5 "	7 "
Hardware.....	12 "	5 "	7 "
Hats, Leather, Woollen, Cotton.....	12 "	5 "	7 "
Hats, Silk.....	20 "	5 "	15 "
Iron, except Pig.....	12 "	5 "	7 "
Jewelry.....	12 "	5 "	7 "
Leather manufactures.....	12 "	5 per cent.	7 "
Machinery.....	17 "	10 per cent.	7 "
Musical Instruments.....	12 "	5 per cent.	7 "
Manufactures, Cotton Linen, Woollen.....	12 "	5 per cent.	7 "
Oakum.....	7 "	Free.	7 "
Oil, Fish.....	16 "	1 per cent.	15 "
Oil Cloth.....	12 "	5 per cent.	7 "
Paper manufactures.....	12 "	5 per cent.	7 "
Spirits, Rum.....	1s. per gallon.	6d. per gallon.	6d. per gallon.
Brandy & other Spirits.....	2s. 3d. p. gallon.	1s. 3d. p. gallon.	1s. per gallon.
Sugar, Refined.....	{ 20 p. cent. & 2d. p. lb.	{ 10 p. cent. & 2d. p. lb.	10 p. cent.
"    Muscovado & Bastard.....	14s. 4d. p. cwt.	9s. 4d. p. cwt.	5s. per cwt.
Sugar-Candy.....	{ 20 p. cent. & 2d. p. lb.	2d. per lb.	20 per cent.

On most articles of import not included in the above Table, there is a protection in favor of British goods, varying from 4 per centum upwards; and on all Foreign articles, from the warehouse in the United Kingdom, 25 per centum of the Imperial Duty is remitted.

But important to the future prosperity of this province as this Council deems the abolition of discriminating duties to be, that question sinks into insignificance when compared with that of the opening of the navigation of the St. Lawrence to foreign nations. That river is obviously the most essential element of our power, and on the use we make of the natural advantages it affords, will mainly depend our future position as a commercial country. The natural outlet for the products of the Western States, a country but newly sprung into existence, and yet numbering already upwards of four millions of inhabitants, shall its full capabilities be made available? Shall we, possessing this great highway to the ocean, succumb without at least a struggle to our competitors in the race for commercial preëminence? It is true that we shall have to