

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

are also of Opinion should be permitted direct from the places of their Growth that the Inhabitants of British America may not be deprived the Advantage of these Articles the former of which in particular is in its Nature too perishable to undergo a double Voyage.

Bounties on
Oak Timber
Staves &
Other
Lumber.

The Bounties on the Importation of Oak Timber Staves and other Lumber having expired some years ago, this Branch of Trade has in Consequence of this and the Interruption of the War been almost totally discontinued—The Renewal of the said Bounties for a limited time would we conceive be productive of the most Salutary effects in extending the Consumption of our Manufacturers employing many Ships and saving great sums of Money annually paid to Foreigners particularly for Staves which are now imported only in Foreign Ships from Hamburgh and Stetin on this Subject we refer to our Memorial presented to the Lords of the Treasury the Beginning of the Year 1785.¹

Hemp.

While this province was under the Government of France—Considerable Quantities of Hemp were raised—The Climate being extremely favourable and many of the Lands peculiarly adapted to the Growth of this Article we are of Opinion if a Bounty equal to what was given formerly to the American Colonies of £8 p ton was extended to this province it would be the means of reviving and promoting the Cultivation thereof—to the mutual Advantage of both Countries.

The Trade from Montreal to the Indian Country by far the most considerable in the province is greatly impeded for want of proper Vessels to transport the property over the Lakes the same during the War having been restricted to Kings Vessels which still continues. And we are of opinion this inconvenience can only be removed by allowing the Traders to build Vessels for themselves under such Regulations as may be thought proper this was permitted before the War and no Inconvenience was found to arise there-from on the Contrary it was a great Security to the Kings Garrisons for in case of any accident to the Vessels—they have recourse to those belonging to the Traders²

We do appoint Mr. Hunter Mr. Rashleigh Mr. Ellice and Mr. Gregory to state these Matters to his Majesty's Ministers

¹ The Colonial timber trade and the bounties thereon grew to be a matter of much controversy for the next half century.

² The ostensible object of prolonging the regulation adopted during the Revolutionary War, of requiring all transport on the upper lakes to be conducted in government vessels, was to prevent the fur trade from falling into the hands of the Americans. The Canadian merchants engaged in the trade continually protested against the regulations as unnecessary, expensive and vexatious.