

HALIFAX, N.S., 10th July, 1879.

Collector of H.M. Customs, Halifax, N.S.

SIR,—I am in receipt of form No. 84, A, and beg to say that the manner in which the lobster canning business is conducted renders it impossible for me to take the affidavit on back thereof, in its present form; and I respectfully request that it be amended so that I can affirm to it as agent.

In that capacity I act here for a great many packers in different parts of the country, importing the tin plates, ingot tin, &c., required, and supplying them therewith, and in return shipping their lobsters for them. The packers have no knowledge of how these goods are imported, nor (at the time) of how their lobsters are exported.

These facts will show you how impossible it is for me to take the affidavit in question, or for them to do so either. I annex copy of a Bill of Lading, per "Sorata," by which you will see it comprises the produce of six different packers, situated in different parts of the country. And I beg to enquire if drawbacks on each of these lots would have to be applied for separately, accompanied in each case by a certified bill of lading, that is six certified bills of lading for one shipment.

Papers for drawback on "Sorata" shipment are ready on forms which, I understand would comply with all the requirements of the Order in Council, and I do not suppose the law will be enforced as regards application within ten days from clearance, until this matter can be settled.

Yours truly, (Signed) ISAAC H. MATHERS.

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, OTTAWA, 23rd July, 1879.

The Collector of Customs, N.S.

SIR,—Adverting to the correspondence submitted with your letter of the 11th instant, respecting the regulations governing drawback of duty on tin-plates, I regret very much that Halifax should assume the position of objecting to every arrangement of this Department, or of the Government relating to Customs.

I can only say that the regulations in question are giving the most complete satisfaction everywhere else, and if the parties interested in Halifax will not comply with them, their claims must stand over until they do so.

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

HALIFAX, N.S., 2nd August, 1879.

The Collector of Customs, Halifax, N.S.

SIR,—On the 31st ultimo I cleared the "Prosperite" outwards, for London, with a cargo of canned goods, and I beg to remind you that this is the second cargo on which I am unable to claim drawbacks, owing to the recent regulation of the Commissioner.

Knowing the business requirements of this Port as you do, it is quite useless making any attempt to show you that I cannot swear that I am proprietor of the packing establishments whose produce passes through my hands.

Yours truly, (Signed) ISAAC H. MATHERS.

CUSTOM HOUSE, HALIFAX, 5th August, 1879.

The Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,—In your letter of the 23rd ultimo, *re* drawbacks on tin-plates, you make the following statement: "I regret very much that Halifax should assume the posi-