

(APPENDIX A, No. 9.)

TORONTO EXCHANGE, 9th July, 1858.

To the Hon. W. H. Merritt,

Chairman of the Committee on Commerce.

DEAR SIR,—

We have had occasion to ship a considerable quantity of split peas to New York, and until recently they were admitted "as Free" under the Treaty of Reciprocity. During the last season, however, in consequence of instructions from Washington, the collectors on the frontier have demanded the payment of duty, on the ground that split peas are not specially enumerated in the list of exemptions. We are aware that split peas are not specially referred to in the Treaty, but we believe that peas and pease-meal are exempt, and we cannot see why the intermediate manufacture, by splitting, should offend the spirit of the Act, and induce the imposition of a duty, where we think none was ever contemplated, by those who framed the Act. Should your Committee concur with us in this opinion, we would respectfully beg your attention to the matter, as the present illiberal construction of the Act, by the American authorities, in this and other instances which are now engaging your attention are militating most injuriously against the commerce of the country.

We are, dear Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

JAMES BROWNE, JR., & Co.

(APPENDIX A, No. 10.)

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of Canada in Parliament Assembled.

The Petition of the Board of Trade of Toronto, respectfully sheweth:—

That whereas nature has endowed this Province with a magnificent highway to the ocean, through the Lakes and the River St. Lawrence, capable of bearing for coming ages the teeming produce of its rich soil to supply the wants of the manufacturing and consuming population of the countries of Europe.

And whereas the port of Quebec is 500 miles nearer to Liverpool than the Port of New York, and produce is now being brought from Chicago and the north-western lakes by means of the facilities to navigation already existing in Canada at a cheaper and more expeditious rate than it can reach New York from the same points, and only requires a corresponding rate of ocean freights from Quebec to compete successfully with the export trade from New York to England.

And whereas the commercial, manufacturing and shipping interests of the Province are depressed and in a languishing condition, our Public Works on the St. Lawrence being all but idle, and the public debt of the country rapidly increasing without any prospect of the expenditure being diminished, under which circumstances it becomes imperative on the Legislature to provide some remedy for our present anomalous condition.

Therefore your petitioners respectfully pray Your Honorable House would appoint a Committee to investigate the cause, and if possible provide some measure by which the present distress in commerce may be alleviated and the natural advantages of the Province be realized.

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

THOS. CLARKSON,

President.

CHARLES ROBERTSON, Secretary.

Toronto, 8th June, 1858.