

CANADA.

We would further most humbly solicit Your Majesty to take into Your Majesty's gracious consideration the difficulties under which Your Majesty's Canadian subjects labour through the withdrawal of the protection which the staple productions of the colony have hitherto enjoyed over foreign grain in the home markets; which difficulties have materially retarded the advancement of this portion of Your Majesty's empire, operated detrimentally upon the vast public works which have been constructed through the paternal care and assistance of Your Majesty's Government, and to a great extent diverted the trade of the colony through the neighbouring Republic, thereby decreasing the revenue of the province, and affording advantages to foreigners in which Your Majesty's subjects cannot participate.

We would most humbly represent to Your Majesty that such a policy is calculated to operate injuriously on the manufacturer and artisan of the empire, as well as on all classes of the colonial community. We therefore humbly pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to extend to colonial produce such protection as may seem to Your Majesty just and proper, and to adopt, if not inconsistent with Your royal pleasure, such a commercial policy as will promote the general interests throughout Your Majesty's extended dominions, and prevent foreigners from enjoying a trade which, in our humble opinion, should be confined to and participated in by those who have the happiness of living under the parental sway of Your Majesty.

All which Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the inhabitants of the city of Hamilton, pray Your Majesty graciously to receive.

(Signed)

GEO. S. TIFFANY, Chairman.

Dated at the City of Hamilton, Canada West,
this 22d day of January, 1849.

Encl. 2 in No. 3.

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At an adjourned meeting held in the City of Hamilton, on the 8th day of January, 1849, to take into consideration the subject of the Navigation Laws,

His Worship the MAYOR in the Chair,
M. W. BROWNE, Esq., Secretary,

The following Resolutions were adopted:—

1. Moved by Sir Allan Macnab, and seconded by Michael Aikman—

That this meeting is of opinion that, inasmuch as the mother Country has seen fit to abandon her protective policy, and has in consequence deprived this colony of many advantages formerly enjoyed in the markets of the United Kingdom, advantages, the loss of which we deeply deplore, and which we consider cannot be fully compensated, even by a change in the Navigation Laws, as they regard Canada; that, therefore, it is the opinion of this meeting, that an humble Address be transmitted to Her Majesty, praying that she will take into Her earnest consideration the propriety of abandoning this ruinous free-trade policy, and of adopting a system of mutual reciprocity and protection between the Colonies and the Parent State, which will prevent foreigners from competing with British subjects in their own waters, to the serious injury of Colonial shipping, and without any counterbalancing advantage to any class of our own community.

2. Moved by Jasper T. Gilkison, seconded by Colonel Servos—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the abandonment of the Navigation Laws, so far as Canada is concerned, would prove most disastrous to its prosperity, by compelling its enterprising inhabitants to compete with foreigners, whose resources, experience, proximity to our ports, and the restrictive policy of their own Government, give them an immense superiority over us, enabling them, whilst they exclude our shipping from the navigation of their waters, to possess themselves of our carrying trade, and take the proceeds out of the country, to which it will never return; that such a policy would prove destructive to Canadian and British shipowners, depriving them of legitimate return for their capital, and eventually adding that capital to the wealth of a rival nation.

3. Moved by Mr. L. Distin, seconded by John Fisher—

That, inasmuch as labour is the true wealth of a country, and the sole producer of capital, any measure which is calculated to transfer that capital from a country, detracts from its wealth, and confers it upon strangers. By this means foreign labour will raise the produce out of foreign soils to supply the British markets; foreign labour will build the ships to transport that produce to market, and foreign labour will throw into Canada every article of consumption or of trade, which we either raise or manufacture, to the injury of our agricultural population, and the total annihilation of our manufacturing and shipping interests.

4. Moved by John O. Hutt, seconded by Peter Gage—

That this meeting fully and cordially concurs in the protest made in the House of Lords on the third reading of the Bill for the repeal of the Corn Laws, which was as follows:—“Because the removal of differential duties in favour of Canadian corn is at variance with the legislative encouragement held out to that colony by Parliament, on the faith of which the colonists have laid out large sums on the improvement of their internal navigation; and because the removal of protection will divert the traffic of the interior from the St. Lawrence and the British ports.