

OPERATION OF THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

17

CANADA.

drawn, that the bulk of the produce, both of the Western States and of Canada West, will be sent to ports of the United States for shipment, notwithstanding the superior advantages in economy of transport which the internal communications of Canada possess, but which are fully counterbalanced by the greater cheapness of ocean freight in the United States, arising in part from the competition there between British and foreign shipping; and that the Navigation Laws will thus be rendered inoperative as regards their main object—that of protection to British shipping—whilst they will exercise a most baneful influence alike over that portion of our revenue derived from public works, and over the interest of every individual connected with the internal or external commerce of the country.

That, moved by the foregoing and other considerations, your petitioners hail with the most lively satisfaction the prospect of the immediate repeal, so far as it regards this colony, of the British Navigation Laws, and that they especially approve of that part of the measure introduced by the Right Hon. Mr. Labouchere in the House of Commons, which confers on the Legislature of this province the power of regulating, as it may deem most to the advantage of the country, the coasting and internal trade—a boon which your petitioners gratefully acknowledge as a fresh manifestation of the desire to govern this country in accordance with “the well-understood wishes and interests of the people.”

Wherefore your petitioners most humbly pray,

That Your Majesty will be pleased to take the foregoing representations into your favourable consideration, and to grant the prayer of your petitioners for the immediate repeal of the Navigation Laws, and the opening of the river St. Lawrence to the ships of every nation.

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

(Signed) Jos. BOURSET, Mayor of the city of Montreal,
and Chairman of the meeting.

Montreal, 13th June, 1848.

[Similar petitions addressed to the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament.]

(No. 250.)

No. 9.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor-General the Right
Hon. the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

MY LORD,

Downing-street, July 7, 1848.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen the address to Her Majesty from the inhabitants of Montreal, on the subject of the Navigation Laws, which was adopted at a public meeting held in that city, on the 13th June, and transmitted to me in your Lordship's Despatch of the 15th of that month; and I have to instruct your Lordship to inform the petitioners that Her Majesty has been pleased to receive their petition very graciously.

Your Lordship will further state that the petitions to the two Houses of Parliament, which also accompanied your Despatch, will be presented immediately.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GREY.