

It had naturally the effect complained of when, during the late war, the United Kingdom, cut off from her usual sources for the supply of Timber (then most wanted) the trade newly introduced into the North American Colonies became suddenly forced to a considerable extent, on a limited agricultural population, high prices, and high wages, with dissipation in their train, could not but be the natural consequences. But the trade having now been long established in the country, and the labouring part of the population surprisingly increased by immigration, prices and wages are moderate, and emigrants and young men find the Lumber-establishments the means of enabling them, by saving their wages for two or three years, to establish themselves on lands, which otherwise it would be out of their power to accomplish :

Your Memorialists can state this as a fact, coming within their own knowledge ; and that in establishments where upwards of 200 labourers are employed there is the most perfect sobriety, and no opportunity of obtaining ardent spirits to excess ; nor are they used but when given out by the foreman in moderation, after exposure to hardships :

That your Memorialists have heard with concern that an unfounded prejudice has gone abroad respecting the quality of the Fir Timber imported from British North America :

On this subject they feel themselves entitled to state with confidence, as respects Fir Timber, that the Red Pine is equal in quality to any brought from the North of Europe, either for ship-building or domestic purposes. That the Yellow Pine Timber affords masts for the Royal Navy, not obtainable elsewhere, and when sawn into deals, an article unequalled by any other for the interior or joiners work of houses ; and that the white spruce-deals, afforded at a low rate, are quite equal to any, and superior to some from the Baltic, and can only be said to yield in quality to those from Christiana in Norway :

Your Memorialists therefore most humbly pray that your Lordships taking the premises into your favourable consideration may be pleased to recommend to the Imperial Parliament to maintain the present scale of duties on Timber and deals, as established in the session of 1821, relying on the permanency of which, your Memorialists, and many thousands of His Majesty's faithful subjects, have embarked their capital and labour, and in which any alteration prejudicial to them will involve them and their families in utter ruin :

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

(signed) *Jeremiah Leaycraft*, Chairman.

*H. Le Mesurier.*

*G. Pemberton and Others.*

Quebec, 28th January 1831.

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