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No. 7.

(No. 19.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Earl CATHCART, K. C. B., to the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

No. 7.

Governor Earl Cathcart to Mr. Secretary Gladstone, 25 February 1846.

Sir,

Government House, Montreal, 25 February 1846.

At the request of the Montreal Board of Trade, I have the honour to transmit the accompanying petition addressed to you by that body.

I have, &c.

(signed) CATHCART.

Enclosure in No. 7.

To the Right Honourable William Gladstone, M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 7

The Petition of the Montreal Board of Trade.

Humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioners have observed Her Majesty's Government have proposed to Parliament a material alteration in the duties on foreign bread-stuffs imported into the United Kingdom, preparatory to an ultimate reduction of the same to a duty of 1s. per quarter.

That hitherto Her Majesty's Government have acted on the principle of affording favour to the produce of Canada, and in accordance therewith passed a law in the year 1843, admitting into Great Britain Canadian wheat at a duty of 1s. per quarter, and flour at a relative rate, conditionally upon the maintenance of the Provincial law imposing a local duty of 3s. per quarter on foreign wheat imported into the province.

That as the proposed Imperial law departs from the principle upon which the Provincial law above referred to was founded, and neutralizes the favour accorded to Canadian bread-stuffs, your petitioners humbly hope Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to recommend the repeal of the said Provincial Act.

That by the alterations lately proposed in the Imperial Parliament, the protection on Canada wheat and flour will be so much diminished, that they cannot compete with like articles from the United States.

That a protection of even 1s. a quarter, small as it may appear, will aid in securing to Canada a share of the North-western American trade, to the encouragement of British shipping.

That unless some protection be given to produce imported by way of the St. Lawrence, the public works, constructed at a vast expense, and for the completion of which a loan was raised in England guaranteed by Her Majesty's Government, instead of being a source of revenue will become a charge to the province.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray, that so much of the Imperial Act 5 & 6 Vict., c. 49, as imposes a duty of 2s. per barrel on foreign flour imported into Canada be repealed; and that grain, flour and meal from Canada, of whatever origin, be allowed to be imported into the United Kingdom duty free.

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

(signed) G. MOFFATT,
President of the Montreal Board of Trade.

Montreal, 25 February 1846.

FREDERICK N. WILLSON, Secretary.

No. 8.

(No. 48.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE to Governor the Earl CATHCART, K. C. B.

No. 8.

Mr. Secretary Gladstone to Governor Earl Cathcart, 1 April 1846.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 1 April 1846.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch, No. 19, of the 25th February last, in which you enclose a memorial from the Board of Trade at Montreal, praying, that in consideration of the injury which the memorialists apprehended from the anticipated change in the Corn Law of this country, Her Majesty's Government would recommend the repeal of the Provincial Act, imposing a local duty of 3s. per quarter on foreign wheat imported into Canada; that the Imperial duty of 2s. per barrel on foreign flour brought into the province may be repealed, and that grain, flour and meal, of whatever origin, may be introduced from Canada into the United Kingdom free of duty.

The despatches noted in the margin, which I have had occasion to address to your Lordship on the subject of the trade of Canada, will have already explained the views which, in common with my colleagues, I entertain with respect to the

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apprehensions

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