

CANADA.

ments regarding the colonial trade and navigation, and the navigation of the River St. Lawrence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

Encl. in No. 4.

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TO HER MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

The Memorial of the Montreal Board of Trade.

Humbly sheweth,

That the new commercial policy recently adopted by the Imperial Parliament having become the law of the realm, your memorialists would humbly beg leave to represent to Your most Gracious Majesty the effects which that law will have on the commerce and welfare of this colony, with a view to obtaining Your Majesty's sanction to such measures of adjustment and relief as may be necessary to protect colonial interests. Nor do they doubt, but that, under the circumstances, the justice of their claims will be readily admitted by Your Gracious Majesty, and that the reforms suggested for Your approval will be promptly and effectually conceded.

Your memorialists beg respectfully, in the first place, to submit to Your most Gracious Majesty, that the high differential duties on foreign corn imported into Great Britain for consumption are by the law in question reduced from a scale sliding from 20s. to 1s. to a more moderate scale of 10s. to 4s. per quarter, the fixed duty of 1s. per quarter being still retained on corn of colonial growth; a change by which the differential duty in favour of Canadian wheat is virtually reduced to 3s. per quarter, as, in all probability, the minimum rate of 4s. per quarter on foreign grain is that which will most generally prevail. They find further, that this new differential scale is limited in its duration to February 1849, when the duty on all grain imported into the United Kingdom for consumption becomes equalized, that is, colonial and foreign will then be equally subject to a fixed duty of 1s. per quarter.

On the other hand, your memorialists, turning their attention to the laws by which the external commerce of this colony is regulated, find a system of Imperial differential duties in existence, which they conceive to be at variance, under present circumstances, not only with sound commercial principles, but with justice and abstract right. These differential duties were imposed upon the commerce of Canada with the view of giving the manufacturers of the mother country and the planters of the West India islands a monopoly, as far as laws could effect that object, of the Canadian markets for the consumption of the articles respectively produced by them—an arrangement which could not reasonably be objected to under the balanced system which had heretofore prevailed between the mother country and this colony, the adjustment being such as to be regarded by both parties as a fair equivalent for the benefits mutually conceded.

Your memorialists, however, beg to submit, that the case is now most materially altered, the slight differential duty to be maintained for the next three years in favour of our produce imported into the markets of Great Britain for consumption, with the exception of timber and a few unimportant articles, being no adequate equivalent, they humbly conceive, for the injury done to Canadian commerce and industry by the differential duties on foreign articles imported into this colony for consumption, the oppressiveness of which may be estimated by the following table, showing at one view the amount of extra duty which they impose upon articles of foreign production imported into Canada.

Articles.	Foreign.	British.	Discrimination.
Beef, salted or cured	5s. per cwt.	2s. per cwt.	3s. per cwt.
Butter	10s. per cwt.	2s. per cwt.	8s. per cwt.
Cheese	5s. per cwt.	2s. 6d. per cwt.	2s. 6d. per cwt.
Candles, Sperm	15 per cent. and 2d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	15 per cent.
Ditto, Wax	7 per cent. and 2d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	7 per cent.
Ditto, other kinds	7 per cent. and 1d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	7 per cent.
Coffee	5s. per cwt. and 1d. per lb.	1d. per lb.	5s. per cwt.
Ditto, roasted	5s. per cwt. and 2d. per lb.	2d. per lb.	5s. per cwt.
Fish, dried or salted	2s. per cwt. and 1 per cent.	1 per cent.	2s. per cwt.
Ditto, pickled	4s. per bbl. and 1 per cent.	1 per cent.	4s. per bbl.
Glass and Glass Ware	20 per cent.	5 per cent.	15 per cent.
Hardware	12 per cent.	5 per cent.	7 per cent.
Leather Manufactures	12 per cent.	5 per cent.	7 per cent.
Molasses	4s. per cwt.	1s. per cwt.	3s. per cwt.
Manufactures, Cotton, Linen, and Woollen.	12 per cent.	5 per cent.	7 per cent.