

Copy of Telegram from Ottawa to Isaac H. Mathers, Esq.

4th JULY, 1879.

Certified bill of lading indispensable for drawback; bank will not prevent that; no payment will be made without.

(Signed) J. JOHNSON.

CUSTOM HOUSE, HALIFAX, 10th July, 1879.

W. G. PARMELEE, Esq.,
Accountant, Customs Department, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have received the new form of tin drawback papers to be used for all tin exported after date of Order in Council relative to tin, etc. The form of affidavit will make the form inoperative here. Tin is imported here by I. H. Mathers and some hardware merchants, sold to the proprietors or agents of canning establishments in the Magdalen Islands, Cape Breton, Bay Chaleur, etc., etc.; then the lobsters or canned fish is sent to these people to be shipped. Therefore, then, the importers and exporters have no interest in the canning establishments. The proprietors of the establishment may or may not come here within a year, not one of these who formerly received drawbacks here can possibly take the affidavit, as they are neither *the proprietors nor a member of the firm*. This affidavit would require to be changed, and the *agent of the manufacturer substituted*. Take the case of payments lately made to Mr. Mathers, where importers paid duty in New Brunswick, and by power of attorney authorized Mr. Mathers, the exporter, to collect the drawback. I am assured by the shippers here that it is *impossible to comply* with affidavit in its present form. A telegram from the Commissioner to Mr. Mathers states certified copies of bills of lading will do.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. ROSS, *Collector*.

P.S.—Several of the tin dealers, *i.e.* the parties importing and exporting, called to-day and stated, while acting as agents for several canning establishments in the tin business, that the proprietors they seldom see, and that they cannot possibly take the affidavit in its present form.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, 11th July, 1879.

W. G. PARMELEE, Esq.,
Accountant, Customs Department, Ottawa.

SIR,—Connected with my letter, mailed yesterday, explaining how impossible it was to have the affidavit in new forms complied with; indeed, in its present shape, no one here to whom the tin drawbacks have been paid, can receive them unless this part of the form is changed. I have several of the tin drawback applications on hand, lying over until this point is settled.

I submit for your consideration Mr. Mathers' letter, which will fully explain this objection. I don't consider it will be necessary for him to obtain "different bills of lading" for one shipment as a statement, explaining quantity for each establishment would be all that would be required. The Order in Council would infer that 34 cents covers duty on tin, solder, oil, varnish, etc., but importers here all affirm that, compared with the former system, when they received the whole duty paid on tin, that the 34 cents *does not even cover the duty on tin*.

Please read that part of Messrs. Baldwin & Co's., letter on this point that I have underlined.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. ROSS, *Collector*.