

— No. 10. —

NEW  
BRUNSWICK.

(No. 51.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke*  
to Lord *Stanley*.No. 10.  
Lieut.-Governor  
Sir *W. M. G. Cole-*  
*brooke* to Lord  
*Stanley*.  
14 May 1842.

My Lord,

Fredericton, New Brunswick,  
14 May 1842.

HAVING just received the enclosed letter from the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's, with a petition to your Lordship's address, on the subject of the proposed modifications of the duties upon deals imported into the United Kingdom from these provinces, I forward it by the present packet, and I readily comply with the request of the Chamber of Commerce in drawing the attention of your Lordship and of Her Majesty's Government to the large capital invested in mills in this province, under the protection which has been hitherto afforded, and which it is apprehended will be injuriously affected by the proposed change in the duties.

I enclose also a petition addressed by the Chamber of Commerce to myself, proposing a modification of the Act of Parliament for preventing timber vessels from carrying deck loads, from the 1st of September to the 1st of May, alleging that if the colonial vessels are allowed to carry deck loads during the month of April, their superior construction would obviate any risk to life and property.

I propose to make inquiry on this subject; but full information can, doubtless, be obtained in England, for the guidance of the Government on this point.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 10.

Chamber of Commerce, St John, 12 May 1842.

I AM directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to forward the enclosed petitions; one to your Excellency on the subject of the deck-load law, and one to the Colonial Secretary on the subject of the duties on deals; this last being one of vital importance to the trade and interest of this province, they beg your Excellency's strong recommendation of its consideration to Her Majesty's Government. And I have farther to state to your Excellency, that a deputation of the merchants would have done themselves the honour of waiting on your Excellency with this petition, with the hope of particularly interesting your Excellency in recommending the prayer thereof, as one vitally affecting their interest, and that of the province generally; but that their presence here is indispensable at the moment of the departure of the mail for England, to attend to their correspondence.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *L. Donaldson*.His Excellency  
Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke*, &c. &c. &c.To the Right Honourable Lord *Stanley*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for  
the Colonies, *London*.The Petition of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of *St. John*, *New Brunswick*,

Humbly showeth,

THAT your petitioners view with deep anxiety the contemplated alteration in the wood duties, fearful that the result of their enactment will be ruin to the trade of these North American colonies; and more especially to that of the Province of New Brunswick.

That deals are one of the principal exports of the province to Great Britain; that a vast amount of capital has been invested in saw-mills and machinery for their manufacture; that the spruce timber of our forest is only fitted to be so manufactured; and that the size of such timber will not admit, generally, of a larger deal being cut than 12 x 9 x 3; that the consumption of deals in the British islands is principally confined to that of 12 x 9 x 3; and that, under the proposed scale of duties, the foreign manufacturers and producers of deals of this size will be fostered, to the utter annihilation of this branch of the deal trade as prosecuted by the people of New Brunswick, and the North American colonies generally.