

a grievous monopoly, by buying at the dearest market both to the merchant and the consumer, although in preventing the Canadians from purchasing tea in the United States, the Government cannot urge the usual specious plea, that it does so to encourage some domestic production either of England or her Colonies.

We are of opinion that the following articles, when imported from Great Britain, or from any other country, into Lower Canada, or into this Province from the United States, should be imported free from all duties; namely, teas of all kinds, coffee, cotton yarn, and all cotton manufactures, bur blocks, bolting cloths and screens, books and papers of all kinds, printers' presses, types and ink, molasses, tin in plates and block tin.

Our close neighbourhood, for many hundreds of miles, to parts of the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, renders it a matter of difficulty for the trader who will not smuggle, to compete with him who will, in all those articles which can be purchased cheapest in the markets of those States, on which a duty is now levied sufficiently high to cover the expense and risk of smuggling them across the lines.

We are of opinion that it would be expedient to repeal the laws imposing 7*l.* 10*s.*, 15*l.*, 20*l.*, and, in some cases, 30*l.* of customs' duties, on every 100*l.* value, of many articles of goods, which are of the first necessity to an agricultural community, when imported into Lower Canada by sea from countries not under the dominion of Great Britain, or from the United States into this Province by land, or other conveyance; while in some instances no duty, and in most cases a duty of only 2*l.* 10*s.* on every 100*l.* value, is exacted on the same descriptions, of goods and merchandise if imported from Great Britain or her Colonies, by way of Quebec and Montreal; and that in lieu of the said discriminating duties or other regulations, only 2*l.* 10*s.* on every 100*l.* value, should be levied on such goods, whether they be imported by sea from parts abroad, or by land, river or lake conveyance, from the said United States; so that a fair competition may be allowed in our markets to other nations, and our limited capital and population employed to the best advantage.

And, that it is expedient to repeal the statutes under authority of which train oil and oil of all sorts, fish, dried or salted, and books, which are prohibited to be imported into the United Kingdom, are prohibited to be imported into this Province from the United States or other foreign countries; and to allow the people of this Province to buy oils, books and fish, in whatever market such articles are sold cheapest.

And we would further humbly represent to Your Majesty, that in case the revenue that would accrue to the Province from the customs, duties and other sources, under the changes contemplated in this Address, should fall short of the sum necessary to carry on the Government, and defray the interest of the public debt, we have already contracted, the difference might be raised by a judicious apportionment of taxation, by the Legislature of this Province, on those imported articles which are generally regarded as luxuries, or which come directly into competition with the staple productions of the Colony; and that where, by giving a temporary encouragement, by means of moderate duties, to certain species of domestic industry a reasonable expectation might be entertained that the articles so encouraged would soon be able to compete on equal terms with the products of the skill and labour of other countries, so that the tariff would no longer operate as a tax, we would not be unwilling to impose such duties; and we feel it incumbent on us further to represent to Your Majesty, that as the timber trade of the Canadas has been for many years encouraged and fostered by the commercial regulations adopted in England; and as a large capital is now vested therein, any Act of the Imperial Parliament by which the present scale of duties levied on foreign timber might be reduced, would be attended with very injurious consequences to many inhabitants of this Province engaged in that important branch of our commerce.

(signed) MARSHALL S. BIDWELL, Speaker.

Commons, House of Assembly,
16th day of February 1836. }